

**Garcia at ibang heneral:**  
Court-martial o civil trial?

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## World crude prices hit peak of \$55.33/barrel

SINGAPORE—Crude oil prices yesterday surged to a new high above US\$55 per barrel as uncertainty swirled over production, high demand, and tight global supplies ahead of the Northern Hemisphere winter.

Crude for November delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) hit a peak of US\$55.33 per barrel around noon in Asia,

WORLD CRUDE/A14

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

## ■ Across / A13

NBI exec fired over Cebu lawyer's slay case

## ■ Sports / A20

Red Sox avert sweep; Astros tie Cardinals

## ■ World / A8

Mahathir says Bush cause of Muslim tragedies

## ■ Business / B1

Tax perks coverage cut to 10 industries

## ■ Lifestyle / C7

Dr. Brady Barr goes to Isabela to wrestle RP croc



# PHILIPPINE DAILY **INQUIRER** BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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P18

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LISTEN/A4

# Garcia keeps mouth shut

*General invokes right to silence*

By Carlito Pablo and Fe Zamora

AT LEAST 20 times, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia invoked his right to remain silent.

Facing the nation for the first time yesterday in a televised standing-room-only congressional hearing, the man alleged to have amassed tens of millions of pesos in unexplained wealth dodged questions about his assets.

Garcia's silence seemed telling enough. It was so telling that House Minority Leader Francis Escudero was provoked into asking him point-blank if he was protecting other people.

"You have claimed no less than probably 30 or 50 times your right against self-incrimination," Escudero said, sounding exasperated. "For the record, sir, are you protecting your right against incrimination or the interests of others to be incriminated?"

Garcia stammered with his reply: "Your Honor, I would like to make it clear that I am invoking my right against self-incrimination."

It was the first time that the general, who had allegedly brought about P44 million into the United States the past 11 years while living on a salary of P37,000 a month, had agreed to appear before the House committee on defense and banks.

The committees, which had held three previous hearings without Garcia honoring their invitation to appear, were looking into allegations of corruption in the Armed Forces.

At one point during the hearing, Garcia squelched reports that he could be a state witness.

Asked by Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano (NP-Taguig-Pateros) if he had any plans to apply for the status of state witness, Garcia said: "I am not applying to be a state witness. I have nothing to testify."

Before invoking the right-to-silence mantra over and over, the suspended former Armed Forces comptroller told the lawmakers: "With due respect, I would like to answer the question before the Ombudsman, the Court of Appeals and the military court."

Try as they might, congressmen failed to elicit specific replies from Garcia regarding his supposed wealth, which exploded into a scandal after news broke that US customs authorities last December had confiscated \$100,000 in cash from his two sons upon their arrival in San Francisco, California.

Frustrated at every turn, the

GARCIA KEEPS/A4



WORRIED and defiant. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia are a study in contrast as they undergo grilling by members of the House defense committee investigating corruption in the military Monday.

ERNESTO S. SARMENTO

## He also owns resort, mango farm, school

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.  
PDI Visayas Bureau  
and Frank Cimatu  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ONE NEED not look far in investigating Maj. Gen. Carlos P. Garcia over his alleged ill-gotten wealth.

His family has pieces of real estate in the hometown of his wife

Clarita in Dumaguas, Iloilo. The assets worth at least P16 million include a farm resort, a caregiver school and a mango plantation.

In Baguio City, as many as four parcels of land are in the name of Garcia and his children.

The City Assessor's Office (CAO) said it had found four houses and lots under the names of Carlos Gar-

cia, Carlos E. Garcia, Carlos R. Garcia, and Ian Carl, Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark Garcia.

Ian Carl, Juan Paolo and Timothy Mark are the sons of the embattled former comptroller of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ricky Tactay, assessment officer of the CAO, said that he was not sure if the "R" in the Carlos R.

Garcia was an "F" in the original papers. He said the CAO was going to further check the records of the property.

If all the lands and houses in the name of Garcia in Baguio were indeed his, then he has real estate with a total land area of 2,500 sq. m. valued at more than P2.65 mil-

HE ALSO/A4

'J-6 releases funds only with OK of chief of staff'

By Carlito Pablo

HE MIGHT not have seen combat before but, on the stand, he looked burly enough—and he appeared to be dropping hints that, with what he knew, he could take down a lot of guys with him.

Beleaguered Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former deputy chief of staff for comptrollership (J-6) of the Armed Forces, told legislators at a congressional inquiry into alleged military corruption that he was merely the custodian of AFP funds.

"J-6 releases funds only with the approval of the chief of staff," Garcia said.

He made the statement while AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya was seated next to him.

"J-6 cannot release funds without the approval of the chief of staff," Garcia stressed.

He explained that the AFP General Headquarters was managed by 11 directors. Each director, except J-6, is allocated funds, based on the approved yearly budget of Camp Aguinaldo.

These are J-1 for personnel; J-2, intelligence; J-3, operations; J-4, logistics; J-5, plans; J-7, civil military operations; J-8, training; J-9, AFP modernization; J-10, reservists, and J-11, communications.

Garcia said that J-6 was the custodian of all AFP funds and what it did only was to release

J-6 RELEASES/A4



PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay and another police officer salute the remains of Supt. Manolo Martinez at a Manila morgue.

## Manila police colonel shot dead in ambush

By Leila B. Salaverría

HE HAD just begun his day when five men ended it for him—in a burst of gunfire.

Police Supt. Manolo Martinez, 54-year-old newly appointed commander of the Sta. Mesa police station, had just stepped out of his car at the station's parking lot at 9:15 a.m. yesterday when the assassins showered him with bullets.

Three other people, including another policeman, were wounded in the attack. A group calling itself "Partisano" claimed responsibility, accusing Martinez of treating protesters violently.

"Paray na, patay na, halika na (He's dead, he's dead, let's go)," bystanders quoted one of the gunmen as saying, according to the police.

The gunmen also threw a hand grenade in the parking lot but it did not explode.

Martinez, who used to head the Sampaloc police station, had

been at the forefront of confrontations for the past year between police and demonstrators attempting to march on Malacañang and the Supreme Court.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal denied that the New People's Army rebels were behind Martinez's

MANILA/A14

death. Rosal said that the NPA rebels were behind Martinez's death because he was a "reactionary" who was "predicated on new taxes."

GAMBLING/A5

Without the tax measures, the

*Gambling pits bishop vs bishop*

By Blanche S. Rivera

IS GAMBLING immoral or not?

Reeling Archbishops Cipolla and Cruz should use their consciences as a guide or just toss a coin.

Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, head of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueting, said that pastors raising funds from the spoils of gambling lords and operators represented the erosion of moral values.

"Gambling is wrong and can never be right whatever the justification. Robin Hood makes a good story

GAMBLING/A5



## Palace fears Congress failure to pass tax bills

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.,  
Carlito Pablo and Christine O.  
Avendano

MORE WORRISOME than failing to pass the 2005 proposed national budget is the inability of Congress to deliver on its commitment to President Macapagal-Arroyo to pass at least two tax

measures before the year ends, Malacañang said yesterday.

"We can live with a reenacted budget but what we think is bigger or more important is for Congress to pass the revenue measures being pushed by the administration," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in an interview with dzRB.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Sunday that Congress would reenact for the second year the 2003 national budget because it would not be able to pass by the end of the year the proposed national budget of P906.7 billion for 2005.

Ms Arroyo is banking on her administration allies in Congress

to pass her legislative reform agenda to address the fiscal crisis and avert a crisis in investor confidence as credit rating agencies have warned of a downgrade if no new taxes are approved before the end of the year.

A lower credit rating would make it more expensive for the country to borrow money over

seas and to pay interest.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP-Camarines Sur), chair of the House appropriations committee, said the tax measures must precede the budget bill because several programs for 2005 were "predicated on new taxes."

PALACE/A5

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYSA, POI RESEARCH/TG/10/19/04

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	General Santos	Cloudy with Rain
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rain
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rain
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Bon. Sanito	Cloudy with Rain
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Zambanga	Cloudy with Rain
Tugaya	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rain
Lagapit	Cloudy with Rain	Garo	Cloudy with Rain
Calapan	Cloudy with Rain		

# Public works exec who incriminated self fired

By Armand N. Nocum

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo has affirmed his decision dismissing Public Works Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto, who inadvertently declared in his motion for reconsideration assets that he did not include in his Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

In a 13-page order dated Oct. 13, Marcelo said Pleyto's motion for reconsideration provided the Office of the Ombudsman with a "trove of evidence against himself cementing the findings of his guilt of dishonesty."

"A long line of landholdings respondent admits to be owned by him and his wife by title cannot be accounted for as declared in respondent's (SALN) in question, much more shown therein as acquired through legitimate means," Marcelo said.

Pleyto filed the motion on June 30, two days after Marcelo signed an order dismissing him from the service for grave misconduct and dishonesty because he had failed to declare in his 2001 and 2002 SALNs pieces of property valued at P16,686,643.20.

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A policeman assigned to the Traffic Management Group in Camp Crane, Quezon City, was killed by three unknown assailants in Lipa City Monday morning.

Senior Supt. Don Montenegro, Batangas police director, said PO2 Bernardo Amazona, 43, was shot dead on St. Martin Street in the Villa de Lipa subdivision, Barangay Maraouy, at around 10 a.m. by gunmen on board a Mitsubishi L300 van. Amazona was from Barangay Ki-

In its order, the Ombudsman said that although Pleyto had declared a net worth of P4,584,553 and P5,956,219.25 in 2001 and 2002, respectively, his bigger asset of P16 million was placed in the name of his children —Russel, Mary Grace and Salvador Jr.

"Pleyto's three children are actually the former's unexplained wealth since all of them have no substantial income to show that they have the capacity to have lawfully acquired" assets worth millions of pesos, Marcelo said.

The assets included a commercial building and a lot with an acquisition cost of about P500,000 in the name of Mary Grace; a 632-sq. m. lot valued at P1.8 million in the name of Russel, and a P187,880 lot in the name of Salvador Juan Pleyto Jr.

The Pleytos were also found to have made numerous trips abroad, with Pleyto and his wife making 17 trips since 1995. The trips were said to have cost the Pleytos about P3,700,000.

"It is clear, therefore, that in trying to explain how the subject properties were acquired by (Pleyto) and his wife, the former only managed to demonstrate that he had been habitually misrepresenting under oath the full extent of his real acquisitions, which only serves to

highlight his dishonesty," Marcelo said. He said the motion for reconsideration provided "much proof" of Pleyto's "habitual dishonesty."

But Pleyto cried harassment, saying that it seemed that the Office of the Ombudsman was bent on turning him into a "sacrificial lamb" for its "selective and vindictive lifestyle check program."

"It is throwing the book at low-ranking officials while dragging its foot in cases involving the astronomical rise in the assets of ranking members of the Cabinet," he said in a telephone interview.

Pleyto was alluding to Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, whose assets rose from less than P10 million in 2002 to P18 million in 2003.

Malacañang had quickly come to the defense of Reyes, however saying it would not make him a sacrificial lamb. The Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission also said they were not investigating Reyes.

Compared to Reyes, Pleyto said his net worth from 2001 to 2002 increased only by P1.3 million.

"We go to government officials who are not Cabinet secretaries or are not close to Malacañang. We are the sacrificial lambs of the lifestyle check program," said Pleyto, noting that no member of the Cabinet has been suspended or removed from office for graft.

He vowed to bring the case to the Court of Appeals.

Pleyto accused the Ombudsman of disregarding facts and documents pointing to his financial capacity to acquire his assets.

In his motion for reconsideration, he said the more than P6 million increase in his assets could be explained by his declared liabilities of P6.5 million.

In addition, the annual income tax returns of his wife Miguela showed that she had a successful piggery, poultry, lending investor and pawnshop business, Pleyto said.



CHINESE VISITOR

President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomes Wu Guangzheng, a member of the standing committee of the political bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, to Malacañang yesterday. Introducing Wu is Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

## Guingona stops House hearings on sin taxes

By Carlito Pablo

THE SON also rises—former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.'s, that is—in Congress.

Neophyte Rep. Teofisto Guingona III (LDP, Bukidnon) yesterday succeeded in blocking what he decried as the "railroading" of tax measures by "Malacañang's Rasputins."

Guingona stopped the House ways and means committee from further conducting hearings on the so-called sin taxes for tobacco and alcohol products.

"Sneaky, a fast one, an attempt for a one-two-three," Guingona said of the hearings.

Guingona pointed out that the ways and means committee had no authorization from either the House plenary or the committee on rules to conduct hearings during the congressional recess.

Congress went on recess on Sept. 24 and would be back on Oct. 25.

"It (hearing) was highly irregular, a railroading by Malacañang's Rasputins," Guingona said.

He said that before the recess, the House plenary had authorized only the committee on appropriations to hold hearings on the proposed 2005 national budget.

"If they (ways and means committee members) want to talk, then they can do so but it would not be on official record," Guingona said.

He said he was not against efforts to speed up the passage of tax measures because of the current fiscal crisis, "but this must be done through the right process."

Ways and means chair Rep. Jesli Lapus (NPC, Tarlac) was forced to concede that the panel could not conduct official hearings.

"This is not an official hearing. But we can still go on (unofficially)," Lapus said.

He said over the weekend that his panel would wrap up deliberations on the sin taxes before the end of October.

Congressmen were previously deadlocked on how to increase the taxes on sin products, particularly tobacco.

Rep. Herminilando Mandanas (LP, Batangas) and Rep. Florencio Noel (party-list An Waray) are pushing for a uniform increase of taxes on all cigarette brands.

Mandanas proposed an increase of P6 to P10 in taxes per pack of cigarettes depending on their classification.

Noel, for his part, wants to replicate the system in most Asian countries in which all brands are taxed uniformly. His proposal was for a P6 tax increase per pack regardless of the brand.

Another bloc of congressmen is pushing for the return of the current specific tax system for tobacco to the ad valorem system which is based on price.

## Nene: Where will gov't get dep't transfer funds?

By Michael Lim Ubac

STRUCTING a new DOT building in Cebu City alone was estimated at between P200 million and P300 million.

"Can the government afford the cost of the transfer considering that it does not even have enough money to hire additional school teachers, to pay contractors of the DPWH, to pay the disability benefits of war veterans, and to pay the retirement and disability packages of police men and soldiers?" the opposition senator said.

He said the plan to transfer the departments appeared to have been "haphazardly drawn up judging from the intensity of the resistance of the rank-and-file employees who have begun holding mass protests."

But the more important issue that must be resolved is not whether the employees are in favor of the transfer but if it is in the best interest of the country, the senator said.

He also doubted the legality of the transfers because of the absence of an appropriate law and the Palace's failure to consult Congress on the plan.

"The transfer may be legally untenable and indefensible considering that even the matter of changing the name of a hospital, street, school or town cannot be done without an enabling law enacted by Congress," he said.

Aside from the funding needs, Pimentel also wanted the Palace to shed light on the following issues related to the transfer plan:

- How will the government address the problems that the affected employees will face, especially when they are uprooted from their homes and communities?

- Will the removal of the line departments from Metro Manila not inconvenience the public which transacts business with them, aside from making coordination among the various departments and agencies difficult?

## Petron hikes gas prices

AFTER holding off on increasing the pump prices of its gasoline products, industry leader Petron Corp. followed the footsteps of its competitors and hiked prices by 25 centavos per liter at 12:01 a.m. today.

"This is due to the higher crude and gasoline import prices," company officials said.

Petron, one of two remaining oil refiners in the country, imports almost half of its gasoline to enable it to comply with the stringent requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

Currently, no oil firm in the country is capable of producing CAA-compliant fuel.

Below refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum

Corp. and finished product importers Caltex Philippines Inc., Total (Phil.) Corp., Senoi Petroleum Corp., Flying V and Eastern Petroleum Corp. all raised the prices of their gasoline by the same level Monday last week.

These firms likewise increased the prices of their diesel and kerosene by 45 centavos a liter.

A day before that, new player UniOil Petroleum Phil. Inc. jacked up its gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by the same level as its competitors.

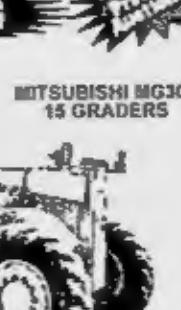
Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have risen 11 times by a total of P6 a liter, while diesel prices have gone up 12 times by a total of P5.70 a liter. Abigail L. Ho

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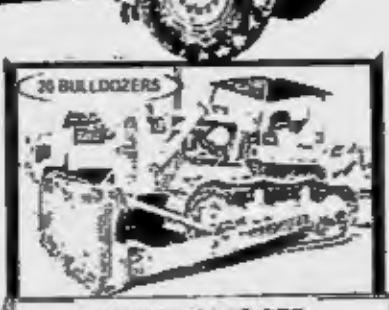
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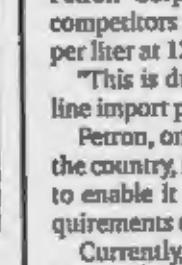
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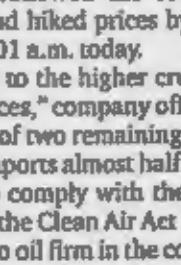
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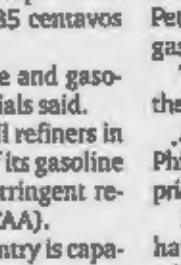
COASTAL OIL STORAGE



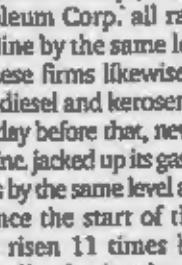
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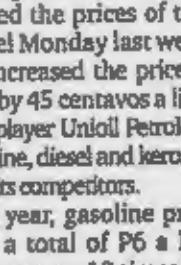
CONTAINER YARD



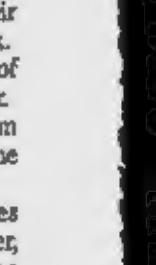
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## Navy deploys terror patrol

THE PHILIPPINE Navy yesterday deployed an antiterrorist task force to patrol resort islands as well as strongholds of al-Qaida-linked Moro extremists.

Dubbed "Stingray," the force consists of a US-built patrol boat, two 24-meter gunboats, a small airplane commonly used in searches and two Navy teams.

The patrol, which will provide visibility for antiterror efforts, is expected to react quickly to any attack. Navy spokesperson Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said.

Its deployment came after officials announced last week that the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group was behind an explosion in February that killed more than 100 people on board the Superferry 14 in the country's worst terrorist attack.

Security of ships and shipping lanes from terrorists and pirates, as well as natural disasters and accidents, has been a huge concern in the archipelago nation.

The Navy patrol will be deployed in Western Mindanao, near the Abu Sayyaf's strongholds in Sulu and Basilan. The antiterrorist task force will also patrol Cebu and Palawan, the country's main tourist destinations, Malabanan said. AP/Aicuan Papat

## Despite appeals, GMA stands firm on population policy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is not wavering in her hands-off policy on population control despite fresh appeals from the country's leading businessmen to stem the tide of runaway population growth.

The President has made known her stand that she respects the right to life and [supports] a population policy based on responsible parenthood and informed choice," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a briefing.

Bunye said the President had not changed her mind on her population control policy and that "any change of policy would have to come from the President herself."

The country's most influential business leaders—SGV founder Washington SyCip, Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Makati Business Club chair Ricardo Romulo,

First Philippine Holdings Corp. chair Oscar Lopez, former Prime Minister Cesar Virata and Philippines Inc. chair Miguel Varela had come out with newspaper ads appealing to the President to tackle the country's population problem on a national level rather than through local government units.

The business leaders warned that failure to curb the rapid population growth would place a heavy burden on the country's ability to feed

and educate the 18 million Filipinos born every year.

The business leaders batted for the government distribution of non-abortive family planning aids, such as contraceptives, to poor Filipinos to address the high population growth rate.

But the President had repeatedly rejected artificial birth control methods in keeping with the Church's stand on the issue.

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November 1-30, 2004	Wednesday, December 15, 2004
December 1-30, 2004	Saturday, January 15, 2005
January 1-30, 2005	Tuesday, February 15, 2005

For DTI-NCR Permit No 2007, Series of 2004

Photo by: J. M. L. / ABS-CBN News

Photo by: J. M.

# Garcia keeps mouth shut

From page A1

lawmakers then turned the heat on Garcia's superior, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya.

"He (Abaya) didn't appear shocked. It's as if the amount involved is only P5," said Cayetano, who made the observation after Abaya recounted what AFP General Headquarters did on learning about the December 2003 incident involving Garcia's sons.

Asked directly by Cayetano why he didn't seem shocked that a general had \$100,000, or more than P5 million in cold cash, Abaya merely replied: "I would say it (the amount) was abnormal."

Cayetano pressed on, saying Abaya could have acted "more aggressively" than merely transferring Garcia in March from the post of AFP deputy chief of staff for comptrollership (J-6) to J-5, or the post of AFP deputy chief of staff for plans.

Garcia said the AFP chief of staff should have registered a stronger reaction as graft and corruption in the military had been one of the major issues raised in the July 2003 military mutiny in Makati by more than 300 junior officers and enlisted men.

Abaya, however, noted later that the AFP leadership had reviewed Garcia's statement of assets, liabilities and net worth and determined that the general's declared assets did "not justify the cash."

## Immune to anomalies

"He (Garcia) has no capacity for having his son bring such money (to the United States)," Abaya said.

Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) said that the military hierarchy had become "inured to anomalies" such that the public no longer expected any serious cleansing in the military ranks.

Marcos said that only a handful of officers were rotated in the major positions at AFP General Headquarters, particularly those concerning funds.

Abaya responded: "I don't think that's a correct statement."

Rep. Luis Vilafuerte (Kampi, Camarines Sur), for his part, demanded a list of generals and colonels who had investments of at least P5 million in the AFP and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc.

Garcia was earlier reported to have withdrawn a total of P19 million from APPSLAI.

# J-6 releases funds only with OK of chief of staff'

From page A1

funds based on requests by the other J chiefs with the "approval of the chief of staff."

Garcia stressed that J-6 did not disburse funds, meaning it was not involved in the actual expenditure of funds.

"We only release," Garcia said. "We

don't have discretion."

When asked about conversion, or the alleged practice of some officers of pocketing money intended for the purchase of supplies and services, Garcia said the lawmakers should instead ask the J-4 because the logistics command was the one involved in procurement.

The J-6 does not handle procurement

documents," he said.

As to fund releases by J-6, Garcia said that these were "purely ministerial."

The J-6 releases funds based on documents approved by the chief of staff and the program directors (the J officers), he said.

Before Garcia went on at length to explain how funds were managed within

the AFP, Abaya claimed: "I do not have control of funds in the AFP."

Abaya explained that the bulk of AFP funds, or 70 percent, were allocated to field units and these were released directly to the units.

Garcia appeared before the House committees on national defense and on banks in the general office attire of an

Army officer.

His hair neatly combed, Garcia alternately looked calm and stoic during the hearings, and sometimes somewhat defiant.

Garcia arrived at the House at about 12:30 p.m. and walked to a holding room at the Mitra Building to await his summons.

# He also owns resort, mango farm, school

From page A1

lion in the city.

The assets in Iloilo, which Garcia and his wife claimed to be among the sources of their income after he was investigated for unexplained wealth, are all losing money, according to audited financial statements submitted to the Western Visayas office of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

## Swimming pools, aviary

The couple's biggest asset is LJT Katamnan Corp., which operates a farm resort in Barangay Pulao in Dumangas town, 42 km northeast of Iloilo City.

Dumangas is the hometown of Garcia's wife Clarita Depakakibao-Garcia.

The 3-hectare resort, which is touted to be the first of its kind in Western Visayas, has various amenities, including a fishing

lagoon, swimming pools, a children's playground and picnic areas.

It also has camping grounds, an aviary, butterfly farm, mango-picking grounds, function rooms and native-style cottages.

The resort was registered with the SEC on April 19, 2002 but started operating in November 2002. Its assets reached P15.3 million but it registered a net loss of P1,294,635.87 last year.

LJT International Caregiver Center Inc., located in Barangay Tabuc Suba in Jaro district in Iloilo City, was registered with the SEC on June 3, 2003. It started operating two months later.

The center offers courses in care-giving and review classes for medicine and nursing board examinations. Its total assets reached P1,032,496.95. It reported a net loss of P447,056.83 last year.

SEC records showed that another fami-

ly-owned company, LJT Mango Orchard Inc., which was registered on Nov 15, 2002, had no operational income last year.

The names of these assets were apparently taken from the initials of Garcia's three sons who, like their mother, are American citizens.

## Holy Ghost Road

Tactay said the lots in the name of the Garcias were on Holy Ghost Road in the Quirino-Magsaysay subdivision and in Loakan, but only the assets in Loakan could be those of the general.

The lot owned by Carlos F Garcia is on Demonstration Road, which was later named Cliff Drive in Loakan Proper.

The lot, with property index No. 102-06-018-05-108, is 1,000 sq. m. and has a unit value of P410 per sq. m. or a market value of P410,000. It was declared a Garcia property in 2001.

The house has an area of 213.5 sq. m. and has a market value of P1,182 million. It was declared a Garcia property in 2002.

The lot given to the sons is 260 meters from the road and is 1,000 sq. m.

Edna Rimando, chief of the records and statistics office of the CAO, said the remoteness and topography of the lots had reduced their market value.

The two lots apparently have a common neighbor, according to the boundaries given by the CAO. The property of Garcia is west of Lot No. 107 while that of his sons' is located east of Lot No. 107.

## Padlocked

Garcia built a two-story, colonial-style house on the lot under his name.

The house, which was padlocked two weeks ago, according to a caretaker, has a gazebo and a trellis above the front door.

There is a separate structure on the left, which could be the garage or the guardhouse. The house reportedly has six bedrooms.

The property owned by a certain Carlos Garcia is a house and lot at 134 Upper QM subdivision. The residential lot has an area of 244 sq. m. with a market value of P200,080, while the house has a market value of P351,730. The house and lot were declared the property of Carlos Garcia in 2001.

The other property, this time under the name of Carlos R. Garcia, is a lot in Holy Ghost subdivision with an area of 246 sq. m. and a total market value of P56,580. On it is a small structure with a market value of P40,080.

Tactay said the property in Holy Ghost subdivision and the one in QM subdivision might not belong to the general.

# Listen, 'it's beautiful to be alive and deaf!'

From page A1

"Deaf MTV: My Silent World" is a video-thesis made by Jamilla Angel Aquino, a recent graduate of De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde's School of Deaf Education & Applied Studies (CSB SDEAS).

## Correction

IN THE OCT. 16 issue, a story on Page A17 of the Inquirer Visayas section—"Photographs, memories of liberation"—misspelled the name of a former press attaché of the US Embassy in Manila. The correct spelling is Frank Jenista—not Gesista.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gery Lito, city editor; Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax No. 897-4793/94; e-mail address: glio@inquirer.com.ph and day/night e-mail address: rpa@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabriga, readers' advocate, the same address and fax number as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: rpa@inquirer.com.ph.

Thesis adviser Giselle Montero likes to show the video to prospective students of the school and guests because "it tells what it's like to live in a silent world."

Founded in 1991, CSB SDEAS has evolved from offering courses that train students to become future teachers for the deaf, to providing relevant and multifaceted degree programs in Business Entrepreneurship and Multimedia Arts.

Through the years, CSB SDEAS has not only helped their graduates land good jobs, their students have found their voice in the multimedia arts. Through video, photography and computer graphics, they have found ways to express themselves and to reach out to other deaf people.

This year, the school has 15 Multimedia Arts students working on their thesis. They could teach people who can hear a thing or two about their silent world.

Marybeth Porciuncula and Mary Joy Reyes have put together a video which encourages the deaf to change their bad habits and be more independent. In the video, a deaf student carelessly leaves his ID in the school canteen and takes off with his friends.

SDEAS director Christine de la Torre

said this was typical among their students.

"When they're at home, it's OK for them to leave things because there's always somebody to pick up after them. In our school, you're supposed to be able to look after yourself," she said.

## Silent prayers

Maria Anna Uy is working on an interactive CD teaching deaf kids sign language. Uy herself taught her 14-year-old sister how to sign so they could communicate. She plans to teach her parents and her 9-year-old brother sign language as well.

Sheila Rago is making an interactive CD teaching pre-school deaf kids Math so they will know the basics even before they start school.

William Enriquez and Christine Ella Castañeda have produced a video which explains the meaning of the Mass, the Angelus and other religious concepts to the deaf.

When Enriquez and Castañeda started attending Mass, they had no clue on what was going on and nobody could explain to them the religious concepts and context of prayer.

They are also preparing a video on the Angelus so the deaf could understand and participate in the daily prayer.

Rowena Garcia and Rhoderick Chuah are working on a website and a video on the Filipino Sign Language.

Leah Osido is busy collecting stories of deaf people through photographs.

Her subjects include a 77-year-old former comfort woman who was abused during the Japanese occupation, an old married couple who argue with their hands, and a deaf child who's a Math genius.

Osido, who dreams of becoming a magazine photographer, said she chose her subjects for their courage and strength.

## Communication gap

Montero related how a former student could not do the work despite his apparent talents. It turned out the student had difficulty understanding written instructions.

"Every day we would read and discuss the instructions. Now he has a job. He is a good artist," she said.

Employability in the mainstream hearing work place is the ultimate goal of the courses and a challenge for CSB SDEAS Career Education and Placement coordinator Eric Soriano.

"In the past, we focused on their education without thinking where our deaf students would go after graduation. Now we

realize it's one thing to find work for them and it's another thing for them to stay."

Out of 15 multimedia graduates last year, 11, including Aquino, have found jobs as graphic artists, website designers or legal encoders.

Although CSB SDEAS classes are conducted separately, its students are encouraged to interact with hearing students as early as their freshman year when they're made to mingle with all incoming students in the Freshman Orientation Program.

## Empowering graduates

De la Torre said the faculty and students have come a long way since 1991, to bridge the gap between the deaf and people who can hear.

From 15 students in 1991, CSB SDEAS now has about 120 students.

The school has 26 faculty members, of which six are deaf and four are graduates of CSB SDEAS.

De la Torre said the school didn't just want their students to graduate and land jobs.

"We want to produce leader-advocates," she said. "We want them to believe in themselves and say: 'I am an empowered person. Yes, I am deaf but I can excel. Being hearing-impaired is not an issue.'"

# Drilon says he also has 'sleep apnea'

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHAT do Senate President Franklin Drilon, businessman Tony Boy Cojuangco and controversial AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia have in common?

They all have a sleep and breathing disorder called "sleep apnea."

This information was volunteered by Drilon himself who told reporters yesterday that he had become an "expert" on the condition which he said he has managed to control.

But the Senate president refused to answer questions on whether or not it was enough reason for Garcia not to face House probes.

Garcia had earlier used his sleep apnea as an excuse not to face two House committees investigating his alleged hidden wealth.

"I don't want to debate with his (Garcia's) doctors," Drilon said.

He said he just wanted to relate his own experience.

Asked whether sleep apnea affected his work, he said: "You judge for yourself. You see me here. You throw me all kinds of questions everyday."

Drilon said he knew that Cojuangco suffered from sleep apnea, too.

He said sleep apnea affects overweight and short-necked people.

"Oxygen supply is hampered by your physique," he said. "So when you snore, the sound is an indication there is a block in your windpipe. (Snoring) indicates oxygen supply is not 100 percent."

To correct this, Drilon said he uses a "continuous positive air pressure machine" every night to ensure he would have "sufficient oxygen supply in the brain while asleep."

Another remedy to the condition is the removal of a portion of the back of the tongue of a person with sleep apnea. Drilon said Cojuangco had reportedly undergone this medical procedure.

# Palace fears Congress failure to pass tax bills

From page A1  
2005 budget would end up as an OPM or 'oh promise me' budget—long on commitments, short on cash," he said.

## Halloween trick

Belying Drilon's claim that the House of Representatives could not approve the general appropriations bill before the end of the year, Andaya said the House would pass the 2005 national budget before the end of November.

He said the appropriations committee was holding four hearings a week to ensure the passage of the proposed budget.

"We look at the senator's warning that the bill will not pass as part of the Senate's traditional Halloween trick when it comes to budget-making," he said.

Andaya said that the Senate would receive the House version of the budget "ahead of our Christmas gifts to our colleagues there."

He pointed out that the delay in passing the budget would come from Senate as it could finish discussions on the bill only in February.

"If that's the case, then the 2005 budget will join three other General Appropriations Acts which were signed in February of the fiscal year," Andaya said, referring to the GAA's of 1997, 1998 and 2000.

He said that come January

2005, the 2004 budget would be "technically reenacted" until Ms Arroyo signed the new GAA by February.

"The government will not collapse... if no budget law is approved on the first day of next year," Andaya said.

## Hostage

House members said a reenacted budget would make Congress a hostage of Malacañang as the latter would have control over lump sum appropriations, particularly for infrastructure and other development projects.

"Malacañang can control us with a reenacted budget," said Rep. Eduardo Veloso (NPC, Leyte).

Under a reenacted budget, funds previously appropriated for projects will be converted into savings and placed under the control of Malacañang, according to Veloso.

Rep. Teofisto Guingona III (LPD, Bukidnon) said reenacting the budget would mean that funds previously allocated for specific projects like the construction of bridges and roads would "automatically become savings at the disposal of the executive branch."

The same funds can now be converted for purposes that suit Malacañang, Guingona said.

Like the congressman, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavie said the failure of Congress to pass the 2005 national budget would work to the advantage of Malacañang and its allies.

"It is more to the advantage of the administration," Flavie told reporters.

The head of the Senate finance committee and the majority leader proposed that the chamber work during the Christmas holidays to pass the national budget by Dec. 31.

rate the chamber was going," it could only pass the budget by December or even January next year.

Villar also said the delay in the budget deliberations in the Senate "should not lead to a reenacted budget."

## Overtime

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said his finance committee was willing to work overtime to avoid having a reenacted budget.

But both Villar and Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan acknowledged that the Senate could only work overtime during the holidays if the House would transmit to the upper chamber its version of the 2005 proposed budget by next month.

"If the House transmits their version by mid-November, we should be able to go overtime during the Christmas break, meet up to the 23rd of December, then meet again from the 26th to the 29th and pass the budget," Pangilinan said in an interview.

He said lawmakers would have to amend the legislative calendar to make this possible. Congress is currently on a monthlong break and is set to resume sessions on Oct. 25 until Oct. 29. It will resume sessions on Nov. 8 and adjourn on Dec. 17.

In a statement, Villar said the House should give its approved version of the budget by next month but conceded that "at the

reiterated his opposition to a reenacted budget, saying that this would allow the government to have a "free rein of the allocation of funds" that could cause people to speculate about it.

"Graft and corruption is now very much in the news again," he said. "The public is wary about issues like these again. We should avoid a scenario that will invite the people's suspicions like a reenacted budget."

For his part, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo asked Congress to pass the proposed budget for 2005, instead of reenacting the 2003 budget, hinting that prices were much higher now than two years ago.

Appearing before the House committee on foreign affairs last month, Romulo lamented that his department was being allocated 0.005 percent of the national budget "to face today's global challenges."

"To address the varying needs of over 7 million Filipinos overseas in at least 180 countries and on ships on every ocean, less than half of one percent of the budget is being allocated to us," he said. With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

# Gambling pits bishop ...

From page A1  
but gives a bad lesson," Cruz, former CBCP president, said in a statement released yesterday by his Dagupan office.

Cruz made the statement after CBCP president Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla admitted that some bishops had referred indigents to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. for financial assistance.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said that instead of referring the poor to Pagcor, bishops could refer them to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Is this any less impure? Pagcor operates casinos, telesabong and Internet gaming in the country. The PCSO, on the other hand, operates lotto and the sweepstakes.

In an earlier interview, Capalla said that while he appeared to have a double standard on gambling, his conscience was clear:

"It may look like I have double standards, but I disagree. What if a person is dying and he asks me for money? I don't have money, but I know somebody who can help. That somebody is a gambler. He is doing something that is not good. If I refer the dying man, does it mean I support the bad things the gambler has done or is doing? I don't think so," Capalla said last week when asked about his stand on accepting help from Pagcor.

Whether it's done by the rich or poor, it's still gambling. Pagcor, jueteng and masiao for that matter—they are all moral aberrations, not virtuous operations. To covet the money of others by gambling is wrong. To launder gambling revenues by financing social projects is still wrong," he said.

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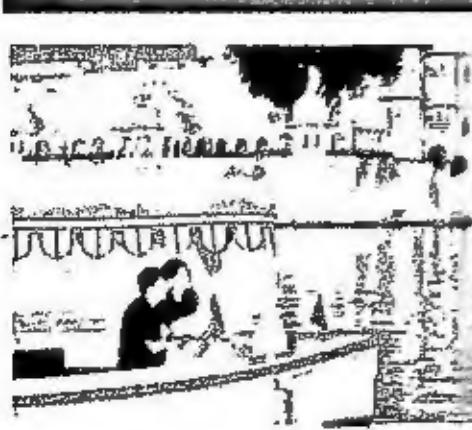
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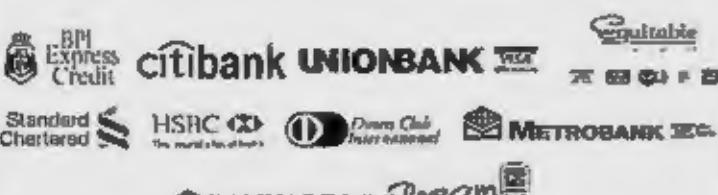
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 19, 2004

## Many students still can't read—DepEd

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BACOLOD CITY—A big number of public high school students cannot read.

Education officials raised this alarm at the start yesterday of the three-day National Educators Congress at the Bacolod Convention Center to drive home their theme, "Building Literacy: A Collective Responsibility."

"Many of our high school students are still non-readers," Education Undersecretary for Programs Fe Hidalgo told a press conference. A "non-reader" is someone who knows how to

read but cannot comprehend what he has read.

"What's important is that the teachers recognize there's a problem so we can think of solutions. What we want to do is raise everybody's awareness," Hidalgo said.

Ideally, schools should make readers out of Grade 1 pupils.

But the Department of Education strongly suspects, based on field reports, that students in the higher grades and even high school were non-readers, Hidalgo said.

She said the DepEd had no exact figures on the number of public high school students who could be considered non-readers, but the dismal results of the readiness tests for incoming high school freshmen given in May and August served to indicate the extent of the problem.

Less than one percent of the 1.2 million incoming freshmen passed the 100-item competency tests on elementary English, Science and Math.

In fact, only 0.64 percent or 8,000 examinees scored at least 75 percent in the tests.

Hidalgo said the students failed mostly on items that required reading comprehension.

"That alone is very telling," she said. "They may be able to read but their comprehension is low. It could be as basic as following directions."

## Teachers' 'indifference' vexes education execs

BACOLOD CITY—Can't teachers tell anymore if there are errors in their textbooks?

Public school officials and teachers attending the annual National Educators Congress here showed a surprising indifference to the controversy over error-riddled textbooks.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad said he had expected to be besieged by questions and complaints on erroneous textbooks during the open forum at the three-day congress.

"I was surprised (the matter) wasn't raised because we want the involvement of the teachers. (We want them to) inform us about possible errors in textbooks," Abad told reporters afterward.

"Whether it was indifference or a lack of awareness, I can't say," he said.

Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo was also piqued by the teachers' seeming lack of concern.

An independent panel of historians had confirmed Marian School supervisor Antonio Go's claim that the history textbook for second-year high school students, "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap," contained numerous errors.

Go said the 316-page textbook had as many as 431 mistakes.

The historians from the University of the Philippines reportedly found numerous factual and grammatical errors, and errors of interpretation and translation.

Hidalgo said she had expected teachers to call her up when Go came out with his claim, but none did.

So Hidalgo called up teachers to seek their

Hidalgo said the situation was the result of several factors, such as the limited resources in the public schools, malnutrition among the children and the poor training of reading teachers.

In his keynote speech, Education Secretary Florencio Abad reiterated what his predeces-

sor had said.

"It pains me to report to you today what you and I all know—Philippine education is in crisis," he said.

Due to the large number of students it would have to deal with, the DepEd has set for itself the target of making pupils "fluent readers" by the time they complete Grade 3.

"Under normal conditions, all learners should be able to read by the end of Grade 1. This means that the learners had gone through pre-school, that teaching resources were adequate, the class sizes were 35 to 40 pupils, and the teachers were effective beginning reading instructors. (But) the situation in the schools may not guarantee this," Hidalgo said.

Another factor, she said, that hindered students from learning to read was malnutrition.

Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luis said almost all DepEd field offices had their own reading programs, but, unfortunately, it could not be determined if they were making any headway.

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### THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, October 19, 2004  
29th Week in Ordinary Time

Eph 2:12-22  
Lk 12:35-38

1st Reading:  
Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be ready, dressed for service, and keep your lamps lit, like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding. As soon as he comes and knocks, they will open to him. Happy are those servants whom the master finds wide-awake when he comes. Truly, I tell you, he will put on an apron and have them sit at table and he will wait on them. Happy are those servants if he finds them awake when he comes at midnight or daybreak!"

We say we keep some people (and some things) "in our heart." Is it a place, then? What kind of place would it be? Very different, I imagine, from other places. It has some kind of reverse geometry: when there are many people in it there's room for more, but when there's no one in it there's no room for anyone. And in the matter of love (because that's what the heart stands for) one and one are still one.

How hard it is to understand the heart! When we fully understand something we can go to sleep! But when we don't understand, we have to stay awake: anything could happen! If we understood the heart fully we would lose all sense of wonder; we could ignore the depths of everything. But instead we have to be on the alert! "Be ready, dressed for service," today's reading tells us, "and keep your lamps lit!"

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### SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



**CIVIL LAW (FAMILY CODE)—Determination of conjugal nature of property**—Whether a property is conjugal or not is determined by law and not by the will of one of the spouses. No unilateral declaration by one spouse can change the character of conjugal property. The clear intent of Nicolas in placing his status as single is to exclude Eusebia from her lawful share in the conjugal property. The law does not allow this. The cohabitation of a spouse with another person, even for a long period, does not sever the tie of a subsisting previous marriage. Otherwise, the law would be giving a stamp of approval to an act that is both illegal and immoral. What petitioners fail to grasp is that Nicolas and Eusebia's cohabitation cannot work to the detriment of Eusebia, the legal spouse. The marriage of Nicolas and Eusebia continued to exist regardless of the fact that Nicolas was already living with Pacita. Hence, all property acquired from 7 October 1926, the date of Nicolas and Eusebia's marriage, until 23 November 1996, the date of Eusebia's death, are still presumed conjugal. Petitioners have neither claimed nor proved that any of the subject properties was acquired outside or beyond this period. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio, First Division, Villanueva vs Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 143286]

BY R. B. VERA

## E-card to make GSIS members' lives easier

In HIS continuing bid to convince the 1.5 million government employees that he was looking after their welfare, Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia yesterday led the first day list-up of an electronic ID system that would make it possible for its members to transact business with the GSIS without having to line up at its offices.

Garcia, who has been the subject of criticism and complaints for alleged mismanagement and abuse of privileges at the GSIS, said the e-card would make the GSIS members responsible for their loan and benefit applications.

"With this system, we are placing the GSIS entirely in the hands of our members. By far, we are the most modern and most efficient government agency in the country," Garcia told the Inquirer.

The e-card, however, is only available initially in Metro Manila. GSIS members in the provinces would be able to avail themselves of the service in a month or two.

"All the members have to do is file their loan applications or benefit claims over the Internet and, with

their e-cards, withdraw their loans or benefits over automated teller machines of Bancnet, Megalink and Expressnet," Garcia said.

He said that under the system, GSIS members could also check if their employers had been remitting their contributions.

"With the e-card, GSIS members can check their records online. They no longer have to go to the GSIS offices," he said.

What the e-card would also do for the GSIS is stamp out ghost claims.

"This will minimize financial fraud, including the illegal and unauthorized use of members' privileges to obtain loans and other financial benefits from the GSIS," Garcia said.

He said it would also save the GSIS P250 million annually in the cost of checks it would no longer have to issue.

Garcia said the GSIS leadership had been conducting dialogues with its members and was making headway in convincing them of the viability of the reforms being undertaken in the government pension fund.

Norman Bordadora

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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## Bush cause of Muslim tragedies—Mahathir

**KUALA LUMPUR**—Malaysia's former prime minister has urged Muslims in America to vote for US Sen. John Kerry in the Nov. 2 presidential election, saying President George W. Bush has been "the cause of the tragedies" across the Muslim world.

"Vote Bush out of office," Mahathir Mohamad said in an open letter dated Oct. 15 to America's Muslim community. "It is truly an *ibadah* (act of devotional worship) that you perform."

"In the past four years, during the Presidency of George W. Bush, the Muslims and their countries have suffered oppression and humiliation as never before in the history of Islam," he said in the letter published on IslamiCity.com, a California-based Web site.

"There is an obvious connection between the sufferings of the Muslims and the policies and thinking of Bush," the letter said.

It was the most strongly worded statement opposing Bush so



MAHATHIR

far by a prominent official in this Southeast Asian nation, which currently chairs the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference, the world's largest Muslim political grouping.

Mahathir, who retired last October but remains a respected figure in the Islamic world, said Muslims have "a duty to ensure Bush will not be able to determine our

fate for four more years."

"Bush has shown that despite his protests, he is the cause of the tragedies in Afghanistan, Palestine and Iraq," Mahathir said.

"I would like to appeal to you, the Muslim citizens and voters of America, to be united and to cast your votes against Bush, in the name of justice, in the name of Islam."

In March, Mahathir had said he believed Kerry might be a better president because he would keep the world safer and listen to other opinions.

However, Kerry's aides insisted the Democratic candidate "rejects any association" with Mahathir, whom they called "an avowed anti-Semite whose views are totally deplorable."

Mahathir retired last year mired in a controversy after telling a summit of Muslim leaders that "Jews rule the world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them."

The remarks drew condemnation from Western leaders, including Bush.



HINDU FESTIVAL

Indian women perform the Garba, a traditional dance, during the fourth day of the nine-day Navratri festival in Ahmedabad late Oct. 17. Navratri, a nine-day Hindu festival of traditional dance, started last Thursday across the country. Picture taken on Oct. 17.

## Zarqawi vows allegiance to Bin Laden

**DUBAI**—An Iraq-based group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has pledged allegiance to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida group in a move it said aimed to increase the "fear of infidels and the fear of the enemies of Islam."

Washington has long accused Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad Group of links to al-Qaida. But a statement posted on the Internet on Sunday was the group's first public admission of ties to the network behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

"With the advent of the month of Ramadan and the need for Muslims to unify ranks in the face of the enemy... We announce that the Tawhid and Jihad Group, its prince and soldiers, have pledged allegiance to the sheikh of the mujahideen (holy fighters) Osama bin Laden," said the statement dated Sunday.

"Sheikh Abu Musab was in contact with the brothers in al-Qaida for eight months, exchanging points of view, then contact was interrupted only to be restored again and the brothers in al-Qaida understood Tawhid and Jihad Group's strategy in (Iraq)," said the statement, which was posted on several websites often used by militants.

It was not possible to verify its authenticity. **Reuters**

## UK scientists urge UN to ignore Bush plea for human cloning ban

**LONDON**—Britain's national academy of science urged the United Nations on Monday to ignore a call by President George W. Bush to ban all forms of human cloning.

The Royal Society said the United States should be allowed to decide whether therapeutic cloning, creating embryos as a source of stem cells to cure diseases, is prohibited within its own borders.

"But other countries, including the UK, have now passed legislation to allow carefully regulated therapeutic cloning while introducing a ban on reproductive cloning," Lord May of Oxford, the president of the society said in a statement.

Last month in a speech to the United Nations Bush called for all countries to support a ban on therapeutic and human reproductive cloning proposed by Costa Rica.

May believes nations should back a Belgian proposal when the UN General Assembly votes on the issue later this month. The Belgian plan would outlaw human reproductive cloning but allow countries to make their own decision on therapeutic cloning.

"If this proposal wins success the United States and others would be still be free to ban all human cloning but countries that see the promise offered by therapeutic cloning can still carry out research," May explained.

Therapeutic cloning is a controversial area of research because it involves the creation and destruction of early embryos to mine them for stem cells which have the ability to develop any type of cell or tissue in the body.

Scientists believe therapeutic cloning could lead to new treatments for illnesses such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and heart disease.

The Royal Society argues that countries which allow regulated therapeutic cloning would not sign up to a convention supporting a total ban on cloning.

Although member nations would not be compelled to support a treaty banning all forms of human cloning, the society said it would place a major obstacle in the way of stem cell research.

"The US government's approach at the UN appears more designed to influence domestic legislation, where attempts to introduce a total ban have so far failed, at the expense of a workable international ban on reproductive cloning," said May.

"Indeed, the US has not yet outlawed reproductive cloning itself," he added. **Reuters**

## Iraq war did little to halt terror—Annan

**LONDON**—The Iraq war has done little to increase security across the world or halt the activities of international terrorists, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan said on Sunday.

Annan said in a British television interview that the international community now had a lot to do to improve security.

"I cannot say the world is safer when you consider the violence around us, when you look around you and see the terrorist attacks around the world and you see what is going on in Iraq," he told the Dimbleby program on ITV television.

"We have a lot of work to do as an international community to try and make the world safer." **Reuters**

A transcript of Annan's interview, due to be broadcast later on Sunday, was made available to media.

Annan also dismissed suggestions that France, Russia and China had, before the recent Iraq war, been prepared to ease sanctions on Iraq in return for oil contracts. **Reuters**

## Summit bucks intervention in Darfur

**TRIPOLI**—An African summit meeting wound up here overnight with a joint statement rejecting any "foreign intervention" in the crisis-torn Sudanese region of Darfur and voicing strong support for the Sudanese government which is threatened with international

sanctions over the situation.

The five African leaders involved, including Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir, also urged rebel groups in Darfur to sign a humanitarian protocol drawn up with the Sudanese government, at the next negotiating session

scheduled for Thursday in Abuja, according to the meeting's joint communique.

The summiteers, the leaders of Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria and Chad, stressed their "rejection of all foreign intervention in this purely African question." **APP**

## Pope: Shadows hang over world

**VATICAN CITY**—Pope John Paul II Sunday thanked well-wishers who celebrated the 26th anniversary of his election as Pontiff but warned of "threatening shadows" hanging over humanity.

"I want to express my great gratitude to all those who, on the occasion of the anniversary (on Saturday) of my election to the seat of Saint Peter, sent me their congratulations and assured me of their prayers," the Pope told thousands of believers at his weekly Sunday address in St. Peter's Square.

Later he presided at a special Mass in St. Peter's basilica to inaugurate the Eucharistic Year—a year of special devotion to the sacrament of the Eucharist, the centerpiece of the Catholic Mass.

The Eucharist, the sacrament that recalls the last supper of Christ, is "light and life," the Pope said.

"The world needs light in

the difficult search for a peace which appears distant, at the beginning of a millennium ravaged and humiliated by the violence of terrorism and war."

He spoke of "threatening shadows" hanging over the human race, among them that of a "scientific research sometimes put to the service of the selfishness of the strongest."

"What stronger aspiration is there than that of life?" he asked.

"And yet on this universal human aspiration threatening shadows are gathering—the shadow of a culture that denies the respect of life at all its stages, the shadow of an indifference that sends countless people to a destiny of hunger and underdevelopment."

The Pope read the first part of his speech himself but, because of his difficulties in speaking, most of his address, which was in Spanish, was read by a senior Vatican official Mgr. Leonardo

Sandri, an Argentinian.

He did read the final part of the speech and announced that the next International Eucharistic conference would take place in Quebec in 2008.

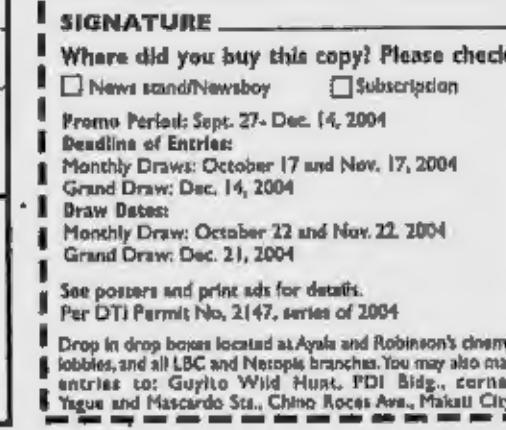
Parkinson's disease and other afflictions have left him a shadow of the robust and energetic Karol Wojtyla elected to the papacy 26 years ago. **APP**

**POPE JOHN PAUL II**

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**The WORLD****'Sore loser' exits**

JAKARTA—Megawati Sukarnoputri has won plaudits for smoothing Indonesia's path to democracy, but in her final days as president the taciturn leader is in danger of leaving a lasting image as a sore loser who refused to bow out gracefully.

On Wednesday, exactly a month after polls saw Megawati overwhelmingly rejected in favor of her former security minister, the country's next president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will be sworn in for five years.

But overshadowing Yudhoyono's ascent is the truculence Megawati has shown in dealing with defeat.

Despite polling 24 million votes less than her rival, who claimed 61 percent in the country's first ever presidential election, Megawati has yet to issue a formal acknowledgement of the result or congratulate the winner.

It was also revealed that she will not at-

tend Yudhoyono's inauguration because her appearance was not mandatory. AFP

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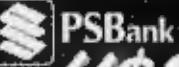
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## Picking UP's president

**T**HE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines is now in the process of choosing its next president. The university has to choose the best candidate, for he or she will administer a university system that has a lead role in the shaping of the next generation's leaders, scholars, teachers and achievers.

It goes without saying that the next UP president has to be a scholar. The term "scholar" is derived from the Latin word *schola*, meaning school, and a scholar is a learned person, or one who has done advanced studies in a special field. But the word traces its roots further back to a Greek word whose meaning is leisure. Higher learning in Greece was based on the concept of the proper use of leisure time, or the activities of a free man aimed at the fullest appreciation of life. Thus, the term "liberal" education in contrast to "vocational" or "professional" education, which prepared people to earn a living.

The next UP president has to have a broad, liberal outlook that will favor the teaching of the liberal arts and the humanities. At the same time, considering the need of the youth to earn a living for themselves and their families, the UP president has to prepare and administer a program that will adequately equip graduates with knowledge and skills needed in the professions and vocations.

The next UP president has to have the highest integrity and a strong sense of moral and ethical values. The Romans called it *virtus*—strength, manliness, conformity to a standard of right, moral excellence. Knowledge without morals is nothing. Intellectual brilliance counts for nothing unless it is used for good causes. One prime example of this is the dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos, who was a brilliant man but who used his God-given talents for corrupt and evil ends.

The UP president has to set a moral example for the entire university and imbue its faculty members and student body with a sense of purpose. This is especially needed at this time when the university has come under attack for supposedly producing many graduates who have been responsible for some of the graft and corruption and other wrongdoings that are being committed in government.

The next UP president also has to be a good fund raiser. The example of the late Carlos P. Romulo comes to mind. As UP president, Romulo raised a lot of funds and constructed many buildings and facilities on the Diliman campus. The next UP president will have to replicate Romulo's accomplishment in raising funds if he is to make any headway in the efforts to regain the past glory of the state university.

One big source of funds that has not been fully tapped is the hundreds of thousands of UP alumni scattered all over the country and all over the world. We are sure many of them will contribute sizable amounts to help rehabilitate and modernize the state university.

The funds to be raised can be used to improve the physical plant and teaching facilities of the university and to pay competitive salaries to faculty members to prevent them from transferring to other universities here and abroad. Funds are also needed to strengthen ties with the leading universities of the world, expand exchange programs, stimulate research and make the university more accessible to bright students coming from the poorer sectors of the country.

In the recent past, UP ranked 32nd among Asia's top 100 universities. In 2001, it slid down to a disappointing 48th place. Clearly, something has to be done to arrest the decline of standards at the UP and restore it to its former glory.

In the Middle Ages, the revival of higher learning in Europe was started by the organization of student corporations at the studium in Bologna and the organization of teaching masters in Paris. The word *universitas* denoted a corporation or guild; teachers and students used the model of the guild as their pattern of organization. Then, as now, the primary activity of universities is scholarly study.

But the next UP president will have to determine whether the university should be engaged only in academic or scholarly studies. "University," after all, comes from the Latin *universitas*, meaning entire, whole. A university is supposed to develop not just the mind of a student but his entire being. A university is supposed to serve not just its faculty and student body but the welfare of the nation where it functions and lives.

The next UP president faces a very big challenge. The position should look for the person and not the person for the job. Let us hope, for the sake of the nation, that the best candidate is chosen.



## Rice-for-classes swap

### VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



"HAVE you eaten rice?" This is a literal rendering of a Chinese greeting, "How are you?" Filipinos ask, "Kumain ka na?" If rice is in cooking pots year round, Vietnamese farmers list themselves as "not poor."

Rice for most Asians is a main staple. More than two billion Asians derive 60 to 70 percent of their calories from *oryza sativa*, first sown in India's Deccan plateau, Thailand's Mekong Delta and Korea, a millennium before Christ.

Rice is recasting President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to provide food stamps for indigents. A "school-attendance-for-rice program" is evolving from the Department of Social Welfare's blueprint to distribute food coupons to PhilHealth members.

The Social Weather Stations earlier reported that the number of those who'd nothing to eat at least on one occasion over the last quarter made up 15 percent of families.

Sen. Ralph Recto proposes aid focus on 100,000 impoverished elementary school children. The kids would get a kilo of rice for every day they attend classes. Slice "sin taxes" to underwrite this program, he urged. Welcome "kilo-for-kilo" counterparts from private groups.

Students often trudge to school without breakfast. Thus, 33 of every 100 pupils who enroll in Grade 1 will drop out before reaching Grade 6. Ms Arroyo's adoption of Recto's proposal signals awareness of hunger—and rice's impact on perceptions.

"Rice is consumed as a staple food in 43 countries of the region," the Food and Agriculture Organization notes in "Toward A Food Secure Asia And Pacific." "The crop gives part-time work to some 300 million people."

Regimes can crumble from rice shortages. Asian countries resist rice trade liberalization. And 2004 is "International Year of Rice." But beyond rice, what has been this region's experience with food coupons?

Mixed, answers former FAO regional economist Ti Teow Choo. "In Asia, the number of countries which tried this scheme is limited. Under the Bandaranaike socialist government

in the 1960s, Sri Lanka distributed a fixed amount of free rice to the poor. It nearly bankrupted the state."

Food coupons today are constricted in geographical area, population coverage and duration. Some Indian states periodically give limited amount packs to the poor. China and Vietnam assist through local governments and communities.

Administration can be a quagmire. In Sri Lanka, more than half the population wrangled food stamps owing to "dubious means tests." And how do you "wean away" people once subsidies stop?

"More feasible are price interventions with a high subsidy element for limited target groups," Ti thinks. "India for example provides such assistance to remote tribal peoples, resource-poor farmers and the urban destitute."

For the long haul, however, there's no substitute for producing food. "He who depends on others for rice is likely to fast," Asian farmers warn.

A "second harvest" is wasted in processing after reaping or fish catches are landed. A solid post-harvest program is urgent. And science-based tools, such as hybrids from China, offer new hope for production increases.

To mark International Year of Rice, FAO awarded the 2004 World Food Prize to rice breeders Yuan Longping of China and Monty Jones of Sierra Leone. Yuan produced hybrid rice with yields 20 percent higher than conventional varieties. He is credited with providing grain for an additional 60 million people each year. In Ghana, Jones crossed the Asian *O. sativa* with the African *O. glaberrima* strains and produced drought- and pest-resistant, high-yield-

ing rice varieties. This "first" in rice breeding helped 20 million farmers in West Africa alone.

Despite cuts in donor aid, research institutes work to beef up rice's nutritional content. Commonly consumed white rice provides adequate energy. But milling strips away most of its protein, fiber, fat, iron and B vitamins.

"The most common nutritional problems in poor rice-eating communities are protein-energy malnutrition and iron, iodine and vitamin A deficiencies," notes the FAO's International Year of Rice website.

Iron deficiency reduces a child's learning ability. It's a leading cause of maternal deaths. Here, 172 mothers die for every 100,000 live births; for Thailand, it is 64. Vitamin A deficiency blinds. It jacks up infant mortality. Out of every 1,000 babies born here, 29 die. In Malaysia, it's eight.

Away from headlines, local and foreign scientists probe other frontiers. International Rice Research Institute scientists seek to introduce into rice a gene that produces betacarotene, a substance that the human body converts to vitamin A. Food fortification is being studied.

At UP Los Baños, Jose Yoroza and Liborio Cabanilla are evaluating "Bt" corn's performance a year after their approval for use. Corn is modified by introducing a gene that builds resistance against the Asian corn borer. Yields are 37 percent higher. And there have been savings on pesticides and reduction of pests. But Bt corn remains controversial.

"The unfulfilled promise of food still lies in the tropics," the FAO director general said in an address at UP Los Baños. "Here in this sun-drenched belt of land, temperature is benign and rainfall abundant. These areas could be the food granaries for the world of our children. The irony is that because of pervasive poverty, life in this very zone is often nasty, brutish and short."

Isn't that what those rice-for-classes swaps are all about?

(E-mail: juan\_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

## Strength

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



DANA R. Dillon of the Heritage Foundation is right when she says Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "is the weakest leader in the (Asia-Pacific) region." She is right when she says GMA is "an equal opportunity weakling" who would "rather appease than confront." She is right about these things—but for the wrong reasons.

The Heritage Foundation, a conservative American think tank that approved of Marcos for the most part, has always been confused about the meaning of strength, in that respect at least. Ignacio Bunye is right to say its assessment is biased, owing mainly to GMA's decision to pull out Philippine troops from Iraq to save a Filipino from a beheading. Dillon expressly shows his bias: "The longer (GMA's) administration makes foreign policy for the Philippines, the more it seems that threats from terrorists and regional bullies influence her more than diplomatic and financial aid from Manila's friends and allies."

His equation is simple and simplistic: Had GMA remained true to her commitment to the "coalition of the willing," she would have been a strong leader. But she did not. Hence, she is a weak one. In fact, GMA's decision to pull out the tiny Philippine contingent from Iraq is the only show of strength she's made in close to four years of rule. But also for the wrong reasons, which in the end reduces it to an act of weakness.

I did say then it wasn't enough to pull out our troops from Iraq. By itself, it smacked of horrendous cowardice, coming as it did especially after her high-profile, gun-ho saber-rattling and strutting before the Iraq invasion. For her decision to represent an act of principle rather than of expedience, it had to go with a rejection of the invasion and an apology to both the Iraqi and Filipino people for dragging them to hell to satisfy the whims of a madman. You can't just pull out your troops and act as though nothing has happened. That may be possible in this country, whose people suffer from perpetual amnesia and who can't remember that the person who rescued Angelo de la Cruz was the same person who drove him to

his captors' arms to begin with, but that is not possible elsewhere. Elsewhere, people remember—and demand explanations.

I warned repeatedly about the consequences of that action without an articulated change of policy, or heart, to go with it. It would be seen as an act of cowardice, it would be seen as a show of weakness. Well, it's a lesson GMA should have learned a long time ago: You try to please everybody, you'll please no one.

GMA's support for the US invasion of Iraq, or indeed for George W. Bush's idea of fighting terrorism, was never an act of strength to begin with. It was an act of weakness. It represented the very thing Dillon cites as proof of GMA's weakness, which is her penchant for appealing rather than confronting. Outside looking in, it might have looked like a show of strength, a defiance of the sentiments of most of the world, particularly of the South, as represented by the countries belonging to the Non-Aligned Movement. Inside looking out, it was an act of weakness, a pandering to the biases of this country to drum up support for a second term. No, more than pandering to the biases of this country, exploiting and fanning the worst prejudices of this people, which are our blind love for Americans and blind hatred for Moros.

GMA's dubious distinction as the weakest leader in the Asia-Pacific region did not begin when she acceded to the demands of Angelo de la Cruz's captors. It began long before, when she acceded to the demands of this country's captors, the people and institutions who have run it from time immemorial, more and more to the ground. It was a monumental irony from

the start that GMA would ensue from the loins of Edsa II, the overthrow of Erap, like the overthrow of Marcos, sounding the call for heroic changes. That she would neither be heroic nor change anything was patent from Day One in her inauguration speech when she forgave about the real forces that drove Erap away and began praising the generals who flocked to Edsa at the 11th hour to pluck victory away from everybody else. That's how Angelo Reyes got as far as he did.

That was patent in the way she bowed down to Erap after "Edsa III," figuring she couldn't afford to antagonize him and his followers if she wanted to win a second term. That was patent in the way she tried to accommodate the Marcoses and their cronies, figuring she too needed them if she wanted to stay in power. That was patent in the way she banned "Live Show" from public view to please Jaime Cardinal Sin. "Live Show" was a perfectly respectable movie made by a perfectly respectable director, Joey Reyes, who had the added virtue of having fought Erap when most movie folk tried only to please him. Certainly, he contributed far more to Edsa II than GMA.

Indeed, that was patent in the way GMA turned herself into an American vassal, single-handedly pushing this country back to commonwealth status, in defense of an idiot of an American president. Can there be a more embarrassing display of vassalage than her speech at the UN last year, where she echoed Bush's line after Kofi Annan, Jacques Chirac, Mithath-Mohamad, and even the Pope had taken turns criticizing the US for its occupation of Iraq? You want to see strong leaders, all you have to do is look at the last four, who are strong not merely because they stand their ground (Bush does the same thing out of stupidity) but because they stand on moral ground.

No, GMA's descent into the weakest leader of Asia did not begin when she pulled out troops from Iraq. It began long before—with no small help from the American government. And groups like the Heritage Foundation.

## OPINION

## No basis for citizens' fears

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

YESTERDAY, I recounted the heroism of a Leyteño named Valeriano Ibáñez Abello who, together with his two friends, Antero Junia Sr. and Vicente Tisón, volunteered to help guide Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces during the Leyte Landing 60 years ago. Abello, a former Boy Scout who had mastered the Scout's semaphore system, communicated with Allied forces through white flags as they prepared to come ashore to "re-take" the Philippines. Offering to guide them to enemy targets, Abello got clearance to board the destroyer. With Junia and Tisón, who left over the vigorous objections of their worried families, the young men, in their mid-30s, were shelled continuously by the Japanese who captured their boat. Luckily, they survived. Had their self-appointed mission failed, many thousands of Leyteños and even American forces could have perished and perhaps the war's end would have been delayed.

Over the past 60 years, the heroism of Abello and his two comrades is recalled at every Leyte Landing anniversary. But ironically, as an account by Edralyn L. Benedicto and Lindablué Romero (sent to me in a batch of clippings by my friend from Calubian, Leyte and son of one of those three young men, Antero Junia Jr.), put it, Abello was never recognized as a war veteran. He applied for recognition but the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office said, "Evidence on record fails to show that you rendered meritorious World War II service to warrant conclusion that you are a deserving guerilla." Abello bitterly suspected that the PVAO thought he was just after the pension. "They can have it," he was quoted as saying. "All I want is to be recognized, not for myself, for I am old, but for my children and my grandchildren. I want them to know that I did something for my country."

Recognition for Abello, who died on July 17, 1999, came from other entities. In 1956, he was awarded a Legion of Honor medal by the late Col. Nicario Jimenez (Lety Magsaysay's famous dad) in the presence of President Ramon Magsaysay.

## Religious tolerance and nationhood

## AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DURING a fellowship last year for an international family planning leadership program, I had the chance to join fellows from three African and two other Asian countries, some of whom happened to be Muslims, for three weeks of study and observation in Sta. Cruz, San Francisco and Berkeley, all in California.

It struck me early on how concerned the Muslim participants were about being able to carry out their religious obligations, such as their daily prayers and weekly worship. The organizers immediately designated a room where the Muslims could pray in peace and quiet. On weekends, a shuttle bus was made available to them so they could worship in the local mosque.

A nurse from Uganda told me that at first they had a difficult time finding the mosque which was located in a nondescript building downtown. "There used to be signs in Arabic and English identifying the place," she said, "but after 9/11, the mosque was subject to vandalism and threats, so the imam decided that to keep the peace, they should simply remove any identifying signs."

I found it sad that even in the United States, which early in its history served as a haven for people of all faiths who were being persecuted in their homelands, religious bigotry should now be so common and seemingly tolerated.

Some of the participants also testified how, simply because of their nationality and religion, they were kept for hours and questioned intensively in US airports. One of the fellows, a doctor from the Sudan named "Osama" was stopped and interrogated at every airport he passed through, and held the longest at San Francisco. A fellow from Burma was also held for questioning, though she recalled the immigration officer asked her only if she had a recipe for a curry dish (wrong religion and wrong cuisine!).

Such is the state of things in our post-9/11 world. And though it's understandable how American security officials should be so skittish, it's unfortunate that such paranoia and jingoism has spread throughout the world as well.

For the record, no one, least of all Ortigas and

Co., talked to me, requested me or bribed me to weigh in on the so-called "mosque" controversy in Greenhills. The first time I met an officer of the company was when I encountered Rex Drilon, the general manager of the Greenhills Shopping Center, at the taping for last week's episode of "Debate" on GMA-Channel 7 which had two themes: an "interrogation" of MMA Chair Bayani Fernando, and the Greenhills imbroglio.

If anybody should be "blamed" for rousing my interest in the issue, it should be the members of an e-group I belong to, some of whom are young Muslim leaders, decrying the inconsiderate and irresponsible comments made by supposedly "respectable" opinion makers and community leaders. I felt for my Muslim friends who were smarting from the way those opposing the transfer of their prayer area to a parking building in the GSC invoked malicious stereotypes of Muslims as criminals prone to violence, and raising even the specter of terrorism in connection with Islamic centers of prayer and study.

The issue, especially the means employed which has been to stir up latent anti-Muslim feelings among Christian Filipinos, has national implications, even if the matter at hand seems to be nothing but big-time arm-twisting for selfish personal ends. We have lived for over 30 years with the bloody and violent consequences of a Muslim separatist movement, a movement that is, at least in part, due to what has been described as the "historical disadvantage" of the Muslim-dominated areas in the country.

## About Samar

## SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



THE ISLAND of Samar for the first 200 years of Spanish rule carried two names. Until 1768, the western coast was called Samar, while the eastern was known as Ibabao. Their people considered themselves different from each other. The first Jesuit priests, Francisco Otacoo and Bartolome Martes, and Brother Domingo Alonso tasked with evangelization arrived in 1596. The first church was built in Tinago (present day Dapdap) two years after.

Of Visayan stock, the people were known for their good looks and were a favorite of the Moros who constantly raided them to supply their chiefs and the Bornean slave markets. Many of the ancient poems and songs of the Samareños dealt with the beauty of their women. From Fr. Francisco Alcina's copious journals that have preserved many of their poems and aphorisms: "Young plunder with your eyes and capture many! With only a glance you seize and take more! Than pirates do their fleets..."

Palapag played an important role in the history of the Galleon Trade since its harbors were a place of refuge both from human depredations and natural calamities. Before proceeding through the Straits of San Bernardino, the galleons would anchor on Cajayagan, Lauan or Balar.

But the Moro raids were not the only threats to the galleons laden with silver from Mexico. In 1620, three Dutch ships awaited the arrival of two galleons from the Embocadero, the San Nicolas and her escort under the command of D. Fernando de Ayala, making their way to Cavite. Seeing the Dutch flag, Ayala fired the only cannon on board and managed to disable the enemy ship. The other two Dutch vessels positioned to attack but luckily night had fallen. In the dark, the galleon was able to race along the coast of Ibabao for Borongan and there unload its precious cargo. A few days later, the escort ship was pursued as well but after a running fight, it beached in Palapag and her treasure and passengers were conveyed to safety.

Seeing that the Manila-based government

(in 1621 the Dutch teamed up with the English and blockaded Manila Bay with nine ships. Several Chinese junks were captured, but one intrepid trader boiled sugar in a cauldron and hurled it at the enemy. The Jesuit report states that "they sent 14 Dutchmen to hell in the form of candy.") The Dutch didn't think this funny and massacred 220 Chinese in retaliation.)

Jesuits in Ibabao were tasked with posting sentries with fire torches to warn the galleons of enemy ships. Seeing the fires, the galleon would head north and reach Cavite via Cape Bojendor.

In 1762, the British 60-gun frigate Argo and the Panther with 32 guns sailed the Samar area for 26 days. As the Argo was rounding the island of Capul just inside the Embocadero, the sighted a large vessel in distress. It was the Santissima Trinidad, caught by a storm on her way to Mexico between Japan and Ladrones, limping back to port. She was overpowered and her cargo valued at P2 million taken. They also found the other galleon, Filipino, grounded in the port of Palapag, but finding the silver gone burnt the ship in anger.

Perhaps no other island was subjected to relentless bloodshed and depredations as much as Ibabao and the region of Palapag. In 1637, the Moros captured more than 100 Christians in Ibabao. Separating into two divisions, one proceeded toward Albay and the other remained in the Samar area raiding, pillaging and capturing slaves.

Seeing that the Manila-based government

Drilon's announcement leaves citizens wondering what happens to the proposed 40 percent cut in the pork barrel allocation for members of Congress, as well as the ballyhooed line-item budgeting. I called up Drilon to express this apprehension and he said there's little cause for worry. This is because after three quarters, only one-fourth of the pork barrel funds have been released, and so at most only half of the funds would be released by the end of this year. Since this is the case for 2004, Drilon stressed, it's "very far-fetched" that the members of Congress would get their allocations without cuts for next year. He pointed out that "historically," the pork barrel is not released during the first quarter of the new year. I checked this out with veteran observers who said releases are usually made around May and June. I told the Senate chief that the citizens would get some perverse satisfaction over the delay of the budget, since wala po ang makulahang mga legislator. He laughed.

We also talked about the tax reform measures and Drilon noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo is "really serious" about getting them passed. He said that of the eight measures, there's a big chance that three will be enacted this year. One is the bill on "sin taxes," which has already been endorsed by the opposition in the Senate, with only the rates still to be agreed upon. Drilon stressed that the principal consideration in passing this measure, which is thought to be the most difficult to enact (after all, it has been introduced so many times in the past), is to raise the "level of confidence" of the international community in RP. The other two measures that should meet "little resistance," he said, are the rationalization of fiscal incentives, which involves looking into the tax holidays of new businesses and the lateral attrition bill.

What about the tax amnesty bill? Drilon said the Senate is not too keen at the moment on passing. "Pungit tingnan kung mauna ito," he explained. I agree since it would mean that Congress is not working hard to pass the other measures.

THE WORLD Bank, in a document on "Human Development for Peace and Prosperity in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao," takes note of how "its long history of independence, separation and cultural assertiveness has created deep-seated barriers between the community of Muslims in Mindanao and the rest of the Philippine nation."

The price Filipino Muslims have paid, the World Bank said, "has been exclusion and alienation," noting how "the underpinnings of nationhood that define the (ARM) ties to the rest of the country continue to be questioned on both sides, obstructing the region's ability to participate fully in the progress and development enjoyed by the rest of the country."

Truly, there cannot be peace in Mindanao as long as the seemingly entrenched cultural bias against Muslims are stoked for various reasons, preventing real policy reform as well as the acceptance of the concept of nationhood among Filipino Muslims. Clearly, the task at hand for Filipinos of goodwill of all faiths should be to reach out to one another, but especially to our "excluded and alienated" Muslim brothers and sisters, to make them feel that they are also accepted as Filipinos, enjoying the same rights and privileges, respect and recognition that all of us enjoy.

Armina Rasul, convenor of the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy, in a letter to the Federation of Greenhills Associations of San Juan, pleads with the residents that "perhaps if you allow us to present to you our way of life, if you give us room in your hearts and minds, if you provide us a chance to get to know us better as fellow citizens in search of a peaceful life, we can banish discrimination."

There are Catholic churches and Catholic schools (including one that has humongous tacky religious images at the entrance) in almost all the Greenhills villages, not to mention a new refurbished Catholic chapel inside the shopping center. All that the Muslim traders request and GSC management plans is to transfer a decade-old prayer center to a new locale. Should we begrudge them even this small concession?

lacked concern, interest and sympathy for the Samareños, the Jesuits together with the people built their own forts as protection (there's a lesson here somewhere) on the different islands of Samar. Smaller ones were constructed in Palapag, Zamarraga and Capul Island and two large ones in Guiuan and Cataibagan.

Perhaps some archaeologist will some day unearth the ruins of what Fr. Juan Jose Delgado mentions: "...[O]n the eastern coast of Samar, Palapag has its ancient wall with a bulwark and a watchtower about half a league from the sea; it has cannons of iron which were left there by a wrecked galleon in early days."

In Guiuan, in 1772, was a square fortress. Each corner had a bastion with six artillery pieces. Inside was the church and convent, four large courtyards, one for the cemetery, another for a garden with a storage room. Facing the sea were six bronze cannons and a huge one of iron with some lances, staffs, shovels, muskets and other arms. The townspeople would take turns keeping vigil at night, ringing the bells of the watchtower upon seeing the enemy. Over the gate was the sentry box where 10 soldiers lived, but at the ringing of the bell, a thousand armed men could be assembled.

Here is a story about Father Alcina who served in Samar for over 40 years of his religious life. He ordered a monstrance from Manila with P250 raised by the villagers and matched by funds from the convent. The Jesuit procurator in Manila thought it too good for the people of Samar and more suited to a cathedral in Spain than a village church. Father Alcina answered: "Let the monstrance be made as ordered, for the Blessed Sacrament of the Visayans was just as much God as that of the Spaniards."

(Data from *Cantius J. Kobak, OFM, "Historical Survey of Palapag, Samar, and the Sumoro Rebellion of 1649"*)

## Happy to be Pinoy

I DARE to say that life is beautiful. More precisely, I dare say it even louder: Life in the Philippines is beautiful.

I could do the usual and recite the common litany of woes. I could cite many reasons why we shouldn't be happy. C'mon, you don't even need to turn on the TV or the radio for your daily dose of bad news. For most of us, looking out the window is enough.

It's true, we live in a country where we don't ask when

## YOUNG BLOOD

Cey Enriquez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

next bad thing that will happen.

And who can blame us? We have kept putting our hopes on the next great leader to pull us out of this hole, only to be disappointed and disillusioned and wish that we had just put the last person back in the same post. Our present state no longer surprises us. It only confirms what we thought this country would become based on last year's bleak economic forecast or whatever dire prediction our favorite soothsayer made when the new year began.

We are a race that has gone through so much hardships from the time we were colonized by the Spaniards and then the Americans and the Japanese. Some analysts have described us as a people with a damaged culture, a people who do not know what truly makes us Filipino.

When you look at the economic indicators, they are enough to send your blood pressure shooting up. When you consider the social structure, the first thing that hits you is the ever-increasing gap between the rich and the poor. You examine our culture, and you discover many things to weep about.

Am I now retracting my first statement? After all, there seems to be a connection between that rosy outlook and all these ugly things which most of us know. But I continue to insist that life here is beautiful.

Why? Because I know no other life and I know no other country. This is my country.

Is that not reason enough? Bite me.

If you ask anybody to write an essay about why he should leave this God-forsaken country, he would probably come back to you the next day with a book. Ask another Filipino to write down the reasons he should stay, and he wouldn't come back empty-handed (see how jaded we've all become?). He'll probably come back with a book, too, but it would take him a longer time to do so because he would need to dig up and research, think of profound reasons and do a lot of sugarcoating. The point is, it's not so easy to see what there is to love about this land.

But, when was the last time you made an effort to get to know it better?

Last week, I looked out our office window and saw the sunset on Manila Bay. It was beautiful.

A few months ago, I read about this Filipino cab driver who returned thousands of dollars worth of jewelry to its owner.

Yesterday, I heard my nephew and niece laugh out loud. I felt great.

I never cease to be amazed by my parents' wisdom. And they're both Filipino.

Boracay—ahhh, just the thought of blue skies, white sand and the sun kissing my skin makes me forget, if only for a brief moment, that there are deadlines to meet.

Halo-halo on a hot day. Singang. Balut midnight snack. Barkada nights. Forgive me for rattling them off, but I could go on and on and tell you a thousand and more reasons any day in this "God-forsaken" country can be simply beautiful. It's not true that God has forsaken this country. We've merely forgotten to count our blessings.

Yes, there are wars and violence in some parts of Southern Luzon, in Mindanao and probably some other areas, but have you stopped for a moment to think that you could have been born in Iraq? Yes, there is poverty, hunger, sickness, but have you ever stopped to think of Somalia? You curse the traffic and gridlock, but have you ever considered that we could be living in some place where there are no roads. My point is that things could be worse.

I'm not saying we should be complacent. I'm not saying we should stop striving to improve the situation in our country and just accept the way things are. But if this is the only way to stop people from focusing on what's ugly in this country, then we ought to spread the word.

I don't think we could begin to work to make things better in this land unless we first see what is worth saving. We complain so much about what we see around us, we consume all our energies noticing what is ugly, what is to be condemned, what should be yet another reason to leave, and we stop there.

If we exerted even just half of the effort we spend complaining to do some introspection, that would be a good start. If we took some time to think of what we as citizens could offer, we would stop underestimating ourselves as a people. And it would be easier for us not just to hope but, more importantly, to do the things that need to be done to improve our lot.

We need to see what's broken, to see what needs to be fixed. And in our case, it wouldn't hurt to take some time to look at what's good to understand how it can be made better.

Again, I dare to say that life here in the Philippines is beautiful. I dare you to say it, too.

Cey Enriquez, 23, works as a copywriter for an ad agency.

## THEY SAID

## Martyr

"To be Echo's (Jericho Rosales) girlfriend means it's OK for everyone to kick your ass even though they know that you don't have any faults."

—Model and actress Cindy Kuriel, revealing what she had to endure when she was going steady with the actor who had to protect his love scene with another actress

## Wasteful expenditure

"It is just a nonstarter. In my opinion, a total waste of time and money."

—Harvard psychologist Dr. Richard McNally, criticizing the US government-funded study on whether jockeys actually work

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## Palace's empty talk

NAME names. The Palace challenges Bishop Oscar Cruz in his latest *jueteng* exposé. Is the Palace kidding?

Chavis Singson named eight *jueteng* lords in his exposé which led to the ouster of Joseph Estrada from the presidency. The alleged gambling lords are still very much around and *jueteng* continues to flourish in their respective territories. Recently, one even got elected.

### Factual errors not debatable

THE RAGING controversy on the alleged errors found in a history textbook brings to light the issues on how to check and safeguard the content accuracy of a textbook.

Having served as textbook authors, evaluators, editors and consultants, we recognize the complexity of textbook writing and publishing. The content accuracy of a textbook is the joint responsibility of the authors, reviewers, editors, staff of the publishing house and the Textbook Board evaluators.

The content expertise of all those involved in producing a textbook is of utmost importance. For instance, a content expert for a science textbook should be a scientist (e.g., one with a Ph.D. in Chemistry for a Chemistry textbook); for a history book, a historian. The Textbook Board evaluators for a book need to include at least one recognized content expert.

Multiple checkpoints are essential, too, in a complex process such as textbook publishing. Redundant checking, for example, by

ed governor of a southern Tagalog province where Bishop Gaudencio Rosales was a long time archbishop before his transfer to Manila. Were they ever charged by government, or is government building cases against them?

Name names? We can only expect look-good commentaries and investigations by everyone who wants to ride on the issue. And then what?

— PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER —

## OPINION



Tuesday, October 19, 2004  
LETTERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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# Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: Inquirer at name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

# NBI exec fired over slain lawyer's case

By Jhunex Napallacan  
PDI Visayas Bureau

**CEBU CITY**—Lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda was relieved as National Bureau of Investigation director for Central Visayas (NBI-7) after President Macapagal-Arroyo was disappointed with the handling of the investigation of the killing of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana Yongco.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the relief order was issued on Friday afternoon, shortly after he received a call from President Arroyo who was in Cebu at that time. He said the President "had expressed disappointment" and was

"quite exasperated, maybe even angry at what has been happening there ... the NBI was going in one direction and the PNP (Philippine National Police) was going on another direction."

"...In fact, she called me twice

about it. She said she is very much concerned that stories are going around in Cebu about the possible cover-ups in this case, one way or the other," he added.

Ms Arroyo was in Cebu from Oct. 13 to 15 for a series of activities.

Asked if the President was aware of rumors that Esmeralda was close to a political clan in Surigao, which is an ally of the Eclos, Gonzalez said yes.

Gonzalez said he also heard such reports because prior to his appointment in Cebu, Esmeralda was assigned to Caraga region,

which includes Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

To avoid these suspicions, Gonzalez said he immediately ordered the relief of Esmeralda.

NBI executive director Nelson Bartolome would sit as acting director while NBI director Reynaldo Wycooco has yet to name Esmeralda's replacement.

Yongco was the private prosecutor in the paricide case against cult leader Ruben Eceno Jr. for the murder of his wife, Alona Bacolod-Eceno.

She was shot dead by a lone gunman on Oct. 11 inside her of-

fice located on the ground floor of her house in Barangay Zapatera, this city.

Esmeralda on Sunday denied that he was relieved from NBI-7, saying he just took a five-day leave of absence. He claimed there was an ongoing demolition job against him.

Esmeralda had been under fire for prematurely disclosing the suspect in the killing of Yongco.

He had told the Inquirer that one Michael Favila, an ex-Army soldier, matched the description of the lone gunman.

Esmeralda later denied implicating Favila, saying the NBI had another suspect who was reportedly a former military man who was said to be a bodyguard of Eceno.

It later turned out that the NBI and the PNP had separate suspects, which reportedly bothered President Arroyo.

Councillor Jack Jakosalem, who was with the President from Oct. 13 to 15, said Ms Arroyo decided to call up Gonzalez past 1 p.m. on Friday after talking to the Yongco family at the murdered lawyer's wake.

## SC suspends judge who stepped into Eceno case

By Jolene R. Bulambot  
PDI Visayas Bureau

**CEBU CITY**—The Supreme Court has suspended a regional trial court judge pending resolution of the administrative cases filed against him, including deciding on the case of a confessed accomplice in the murder of Alona Bacolod Eceno even if he was ordered not to handle new cases.

The SC resolution did not indicate the length of the suspension imposed on Judge Ildefonso Suerte of RTC Branch 60 in Barili town, 61 km southwest of this city.

In its 12-page order dated Oct. 12, the SC told Suerte to show cause in 15 days from notice why he should not be dismissed from the service.

Deputy Court Administrator Christopher Lock yesterday said the SC resolution would take effect immediately after Suerte receives his copy.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had ordered Lock to conduct an inventory of all the cases filed before Suerte.

In his memorandum to SC, Lock said that based on his inventory, Suerte had committed at least eight violations in several cases he was handling.

One of these violations, he said, was Suerte's failure to act on 170 cases, which had long been filed in his court.

Suerte also violated Davide's

administrative order dated March 3, where the judge was told not to handle new cases as he was due to retire in January 2005.

### Defiance

But Lock said Suerte took cognizance of 18 new civil and three criminal cases, including the murder case filed against a confessed accomplice in the killing of Alona Bacolod Eceno.

Suerte convicted Cedrick Deviñadas of accessory to murder on May 7, 2004, sentencing him to 4 to 8 years imprisonment after he confessed that he allegedly helped the late Ben Bacolod kill his own sister on Jan. 5, 2002.

The judge handed down the verdict even if the highly publicized paricide case filed against cult leader Ruben Eceno Jr. was still pending in another court in Cebu City.

Ben could not, however, defend himself as he was killed with his parents and a sister in the Bacolod family massacre in Mandaua City in June 2002.

Eceno, "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, is accused of killing his wife Alona. He is out on a P1-million bail and is in Manila to undergo treatment for heart ailment.

The SC also noted a fabricated transcript of stenographic notes in one of the decisions Suerte rendered in another case for declaration of nullity of marriage.

## New Subic chief says he'll put freeport on world map

By Allan Macatuno  
PDI Central Luzon Desk

**SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE**—Instead of making revolutionary changes, new Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Francisco Licuanan III said on Monday he would gradually usher in development inside this former American naval base to further put Subic in the world map.

Delivering his first ever public speech after President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed him to the post, Licuanan vowed to "build on what has been already built and go on from there."

"When you have accomplished a lot, you are expected to accomplish more," Licuanan said during the turnover ceremony of the SBMA leadership. He commended outgoing SBMA Chair Felicitio Payumo for his achievements in his six-year term.

"Frankly speaking, I have no

doubts that Tong (Payumo) would go a long way," he said.

Licuanan said when he was asked to take this job, the only thing that "attracted" him was the potential of this freeport zone to compete globally.

"If we can't do it here in Subic, where else can we do it?" he asked.

The former president of Ayala Land Inc. also hailed the "wonderful dedication" and "hard work" put in by SBMA employees to gain for Subic various awards and commendations.

"I urge you to join me in this new administration's quest to carry out our task and role in national development," he told SBMA officials and employees.

Afredo Antonio, incoming SBMA administrator, vowed to help mitigate the country's deficit by being more efficient "so that every peso redounds to the improvement of the freeport's future income and economic growth."

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Various indigenous peoples groups in the country were outraged by President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to merge the National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) with two other government agencies to form the Department of Land Reform.

Former NCIP Commissioner Edmundo Mansayagan said the move was taken as a major blunder by many lumad groups across the regions because it violated the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipora).

"This move of the President

shocked many, some were even outraged by it, because the move was just not right," Mansayagan said over radio station dxND here Saturday.

Mansayagan said the lumad groups expressed their opposition to Executive Order 364 during a series of consultations he attended.

He said during the consultations, the lumad groups agreed that President Arroyo should have first consulted leaders of indigenous communities before she issued the order.

"This needs consultation be-

cause this involves the lumad. The law says that any policy concerning the IPs, no matter how good these policies are, the lumad needs to be consulted," Mansayagan said.

Ponciano Binagen, former dean of the anthropology department of the University of the Philippines, who spoke over the same radio station, said the Ipora already contains the bundle of rights of the lumad: right to self-governance, cultural integrity, ancestral domain, social justice and human rights. Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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## Appeals court stops land deal between Cavite, firm

By Norman Bordadora

**THE COURT** of Appeals has issued a temporary restraining order on the compromise agreement between the government of Cavite and private firm Goldenrod Inc., covering a 22-year dispute over more than 26 hectares in Trece Martires City.

In a resolution penned by Associate Justice Amelita Tolentino, the CA 11th Division gave due course to the petition for the annulment of the Trece Martires Regional Trial Court's decision approving the com-

promise agreement.

Cavite Vice Gov. Juanito Victor Remulla filed the petition for the annulment of the Trece Martires court's "blessing" on the compromise agreement and the petition for the TRO after seeing that the compromise agreement was grossly disadvantageous to the province.

"The province stands to lose P500 million in land and in cash (if the compromise agreement gets underway)," Remulla said.

The TRO gets in the way of the compromise agreement that Cavite's provincial board, ironi-

cally presided over by Remulla as the vice governor, approved unanimously.

Cavite Gov. Ireneo Maliki entered into the agreement with Sonya Mathay and Eleuterio Pascua, on Feb. 27 this year mandates the province to return more than 19 ha of the 26 ha in disputed land.

The 26-hectare property has been possessed by the provincial government by virtue of a 1982 court order and was developed with the construction of a sports complex, a forest park, a cemetery and a relocation site for squatters.

Mathay and Pascual have since disputed the expropriation of the 26 ha, saying they already bought the land from original owner Matiella de Vila.

Mathay and Pascual also sought to nullify the donation in 1957 of 13 ha by the De Vila family to the province of Cavite.

The 13 ha has since been used by the Cavite government to transfer the provincial capitol from Cavite City to Trece Martires City.

Hospitals have also been built on the 13 ha used as a government center.

But the islanders were not just happy, they were overwhelmed.

"Allah brought safety and comfort to our homes, for us Ramadan has become more meaningful," Mujahin said.

Sal, told US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone, the highest ranking US government official to have set foot on the island, that the energy provided by the solar panels would help parents raise their children as true Muslims.

"Our schoolchildren and youths can now read Koran comfortably even at night and they can spend more time at our mosque," he said. Julie S. Alipada, PDI Mindanao Bureau



**SWEET DREAMS**  
A young beggar takes his usual spot on Session Road in Baguio City in front of a window display of cakes which might as well be the stuff he dreams of as he sleeps on the cold pavement.

## Land agency merger angers tribe execs

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Various indigenous peoples groups in the country were outraged by President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to merge the National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) with two other government agencies to form the Department of Land Reform.

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# Manila police colonel shot dead in ambush

# World crude prices ...

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killing.

"First, I don't have any reports from any NPA units related to the incident. Second, Martinez, as far as I know, did not have any grave blood debts against the people," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

Rosal added: "With the high-handed style of execution, that's not the mark of an NPA job. The police should look for other suspects."

Martinez died at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay (UERM) Memorial Hospital less than an hour after gunmen pumped eight bullets into his chest and back.

## Partisano claim

The assailants escaped by commandeering a jeepney.

Police were looking into several angles, including the alleged claim of the Partisano group that it killed Martinez because he had allegedly killed urban poor organizers and attacked protesters.

A statement from the group, which claimed to be the former Alex Boncaya Brigade, was found at the crime scene by a radio reporter, who turned it over to the police.

Martinez had just alighted from his maroon Toyota Prado at the parking lot of the police station along Santol Extension, near Old Sta. Mesa Street, when his attackers struck, said Senior Insp. Dominador Arevalo, homicide investigator of the Western Police District.

## The ambush

Some of the gunmen were standing on the elevated portion of Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard, which overlooks the parking lot. The others were positioned along Santol Extension.

They were armed with an M-16 rifle and 45-cal. and 9mm pistols. None of the gunmen bothered to cover their faces, investigators said.

PO1 Conrad Cecil and had just come out of the police station and was about to greet Martinez when he was shot in the thigh.

A bystander on Santol Extension, Janet Chan, was struck in the back by a stray bullet.

Investigators said that, after the attack, the assailants tried to stop a G-liner passenger bus along Magsaysay Boulevard bound for Taytay and fired at its windshield. The bullet missed the driver but grazed the right arm of conductor Alberto Guadama, 24.

## Passengers panicked

Instead of boarding the bus, the gunmen commandeered a passenger jeepney bound for Cubao. Passengers jumped out as the gunmen ordered the driver to move on.

The five gunmen got off on V. Mapa Street.

## Slain cop led face-offs vs protesters from left and right

By Leila B. Salaverria

LITTLE did his assassins know that when Supt. Manolo Martinez was still alive, one of his wishes was that, on his death, his eyes would be donated to the eye bank.

Martinez's wife, Lucila, revealed this in a television interview hours after unidentified gunmen shot her husband dead in an ambush near the Sta. Mesa police station, where he was the commander.

"He told me when he was still alive that he wanted his eyes to be turned over to the eye bank," she said.

For the past two years, either as station commander or a member of the civil disturbance group, Martinez had been one of the most visible officials of the Western Police District, leading his men in face-offs with protesters of various stripes.

Martinez took over the post of commander of the Sta. Mesa police station only on Oct. 1 and was in charge of securing the Chino Roces Bridge, a popular rally venue which leads to Malacafiang Palace.

Before that, he had a short stint at the Civil Disturbance Management Group of the WPD after his relief as the Sampaloc police commander, a post he held for over a year.

## Brushes with protesters

While in Sampaloc, Martinez faced various militant or urban poor groups which would often converge at Espana Boulevard before marching to Malacafiang.

The WPD released an artist's sketch of two of the assailants. One was described as 20 to 25 years old, fair-skinned and 5'4 tall. The other was around 27 to 30 years old, fair-skinned and 5'5 to 5'6 tall.

Martinez was still alive when he reached the hospital but died at 9:50 a.m., WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said. Doctors tried to revive him but gave up at 10:15 a.m.

Bulaong said the other angles the police were looking into were the involvement of drugs and other crime groups whom Martinez might have busted in the past.

Arevalo also said the possible involvement of the Partisano group of the Partido Marxista-Leninista ng Pilipinas (PLMP) was also being studied.

He was also the one who led the rough dispersal in February this year of supporters of opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. who wanted to march to the Supreme Court on Taft Avenue at the height of the controversy over Poe's citizenship.

Police used water hoses and truncheons to drive away some 2,000 members of the Pinoy si PPJ Campaign to Save Democracy. Martinez had claimed his men moved in after the protesters threw stones and bottles at the policemen.

## Tributes from colleagues

He also tackled other pre-election rallies and guarded the boundary of Manila and Quezon City to prevent protesters from entering his city.

Before being appointed to the Sampaloc station, Martinez headed the Ermita police station. As Ermita commander, he negotiated with dispersed protesters who wanted to march to the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard.

"He was a very hard-working and hard-hitting policeman and was very efficient," WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said.

Another colleague, Sr. Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, described Martinez as "industrious" and "a good policeman."

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said Martinez's death was a "big loss" to the WPD.

Martinez, 54, joined the police force in 1972, when he was 22 years old. He was the father of three, one boy and two girls, and lived in Tondo.

In the statement by spokesperson Mikhail Leongson, the group said Martinez's killing was the only way to stop his attacks on protesters, especially those belonging to the urban poor.

A senior police official belonging to the intelligence community warned that Martinez's killing could just be a "sample."

Citing intelligence information, the official said other ranking officers consistently antagonizing leftist groups during protest rallies could be next on the hit list.

The mayor ordered all police stations in Manila to fly the Philippine flag at half-staff. With reports from Edson Castro Tandoc Jr., Christian V. Esguerra and Tessa V. Quisumbing in Manila and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

From page A1

up 40 cents from its Friday settlement price. US light crude, however, later eased to US\$54.93.

US heating oil also set record \$1.5555 a gallon before dipping to \$1.5485, and Brent crude in London matched an all-time high at \$50.40 a barrel before slipping to \$49.92.

Crude oil prices, the highest in a generation, are about 80 percent higher than a year ago, but they are still around US\$25 below the peak inflation-adjusted price reached in 1981.

Crude prices have skyrocketed more than US\$10 in the past month, primarily over production delays in the Gulf of Mexico, where Hurricane Ivan hit mid-September.

Now that the US\$55 barrier has been surpassed, analysts are looking toward US\$60 a barrel, with some saying it may reach that mark by the end of the year—smack in the middle of the Northern Hemisphere winter.

"We hit the new milestone and, we're looking at US\$60," said Victor Shum, oil analyst at the Texas-based energy consultants Purvin & Gertz. "US\$60 is certainly feasible."

Prices have continued their relentless march higher despite some evidence that energy costs are beginning to slow the economic growth that has helped fuel more than a \$20 increase in prices this year.

"At the moment, we are at the stage where prices are really driven by short-term factors that the market has been dealing with for the last few months," said Daniel Hynes, industry analyst at ANZ Bank in Melbourne.

"If high prices do continue much longer, they will certainly have a bite on GDP growth."

## Decline in stocks

Declines in US distillate stocks just before the Northern Hemisphere winter are the latest in a line of supply factors to rattle the market.

The US Department of Energy said in its weekly petroleum supply report last week that commercially available supplies of heating oil declined by 1.2 million barrels for the week ending Oct. 8, falling

to 50.0 million barrels, or 10 percent below year-ago levels.

Diesel and kerosene are used for heating oil. Demand for jet fuel—kerosene with additives—also rises in the winter as flights increase during the Christmas season.

In the Gulf of Mexico, over 20 million barrels of crude remain shut in as recovery efforts continue to get production levels back to normal, the US Minerals Management Service said on its website.

But with the amount of excess capacity—immediate surplus supply—at about one percent of daily demand, now estimated to be above 82 million barrels, any supply outage is expected to factor into prices.

## Disruptions

Market players have been fixated on potential disruptions in production, such as the just-concluded oil workers' strike and threats of rebel attacks in Nigeria, Africa's largest producer, and sporadic attacks by militants on Iraqi pipelines.

Unrest in the world's largest producer, Saudi Arabia; the tax battle between the Russian government and oil giant Yukos; and political tensions in key producer Venezuela have also pushed prices higher.

Chicago Board of Trade chief executive Bernard Dan told Australia's Nine Network that the US economy would be hurt by the spike—but not significantly. He said the economy could even withstand prices of US\$75 per barrel.

"I think basically most users and most traders have priced in that sort of range (US\$60 to US\$75)," said Dan. "While it might do some damage in terms of the economy and might be reflected in our equity market, I don't think it is going to be at a level where it is catastrophic in any sense."

His comments came after US Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan said Friday rising oil prices would have far less impact than the oil shocks of the 1970s.

Even so, Greenspan said that high oil prices had already cut 3/4 of a percent from US gross domestic product. Reports from AP, Reuters and AFP

## PROVIDING FOR OUR GROWING POPULATION

We, members of the business community, wish to express our deep concern that continued rapid population growth might be outstripping our country's ability to feed, educate and fully form each of the 1.8 million Filipinos being added to our nation every year. Our inability to nurture, develop, enhance and sustain the productive capacities of every Filipino in a globally competitive world can only compromise the attainment of our shared national aspirations.

We call on our President, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to lead the nation and the government in confronting the burden of providing every Filipino who is born, with sufficient resources to survive, obtain good health and quality education, and secure the means to advance and contribute to our nation's progress, particularly in these times of a looming fiscal crisis.

As an important part of insuring our collective ability to provide a better future for every Filipino, we call for the wider provision of information and education on the wisdom of practicing responsible parenthood that can eventually lead families and communities to have only the number and spacing of children that they want and can adequately support.

Furthermore, we call for greater assistance to couples who decide to practice responsible parenthood according to their knowledge, preferences and beliefs. We ask government at the national and local levels to assure that all legally and medically permissible goods and services necessary for safely postponing pregnancies and for bringing pregnancies to full term and safe delivery, are available to everyone, including those who have limited means to pay. We recognize that some methods for postponing pregnancies are morally objectionable to others, including some of us, but we nonetheless ask everyone to abide by our existing laws in respecting the responsible choices of people on these matters. We suggest that whatever family planning choices already available to those with the means to pay, be also made available to those who cannot afford to pay for the same services they might prefer.

To better insure our collective ability to provide for all Filipinos already born, we support families' decisions and choices to space or limit the number of children they want to have.



## Tight watch on illegal deep wells

By Tina G. Santos

**ALARMED** by reports of the deteriorating quality of water drawn from deep wells in the metropolis, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said yesterday it would intensify its drive against illegal wells in at least 13 critical areas in Metro Manila.

The water board said excessive ground water extraction from the wells had caused the deterioration, particularly in Quezon City, Malabon, Caloocan and Muntinlupa.

Ramon Alipala, NWRB executive director, disclosed that 60 percent of the more than 3,000 deep wells in Metro Manila operate without the necessary permit.

Alipala said a memorandum of agreement with the local government units concerned had already been entered into by the board for the strict monitoring of ground water extraction, and to prevent the digging of more illegal deep wells.

A cease-and-desist order would be issued against persons and entities with no water permits, he said, adding that violators face a fine of P1,000 a day until all extraction activities stop.

Alipala said that the big number of wells extracting water from the ground had seriously affected the allowable extraction rate or safe water yield.

Increased salinity and contamination from near surface formations in the identified critical areas had also been observed, he added. Over-extraction of water could also result in irreversible damages to underground reservoirs.

With the situation critical, Alipala said the NWRB would no longer grant new extraction permits in areas where water levels are below zero elevation, or where there is hardly any water yield. At the same time, water permits for the critical areas connected to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System would be automatically revoked.

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr. and Christian V. Esguerra

**AMID** the corruption scandal hounding the military, the national police said yesterday it would be looking into the Statements of Assets and Liabilities of its police officials filed in the last five years.

Through a memorandum to all police districts, the national police is now requiring copies of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) of police officials starting with the rank of Police Senior Superintendent and up.

### Positive step

This is still part of the lifestyle check Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Edgar Aglipay had ordered a few days ago.

"We welcome the order to conduct lifestyle checks on policemen. This is a positive step to clear the image of the police," National Capital Region Police

Office Director Avelino Razon Jr. said in a phone interview.

A ranking Northern Police District official said the copies of a police official's SALN would be compared to his actual salary to see if he is living beyond his means."

This is not the first time the police is conducting a lifestyle check.

The national police had implemented a similar check for policemen more than year ago, just right after junior military officers used the issue of corruption in the Armed Forces to justify and seek support for the failed July 27 Oakwood Mutiny.

But last year's police check yielded nothing substantial. Allegations of corruption, with some officials said to be on the take from gambling and drug lords, continue to haunt the police and the military.

Aglipay said he had invited the Commission on Audit and other government agencies with a "mandate" to initiate parallel in-

vestigations of the alleged large-scale anomaly.

The PNP chief yesterday volunteered to be the first subject of a lifestyle check.

"If you want, you can open my body and look inside me," the official, sounding irked, said in a press conference. "What else do you want?"

At least two top PNP officials said Aglipay had the "courage" to volunteer since he had "nothing to hide."

"Nobody's saying he's corrupt," said the other official. "The problem is with other officials who have become millionaires out of so many irregularities at the PNP. They are the ones whom (Aglipay) should be investigating."

As far as his fellow officers were concerned, Aglipay appeared to have no time for an investigation.

### Hands off

"I have so many things to do, that's why I'm asking those with the mandate to investigate, to

look into these allegations," he told reporters.

Even before a separate body could begin an investigation, Aglipay was convinced there was no irregularity involving the PNP budget. "If you think there's an officer involved in it, then have him investigated."

### Strict accounting

"What I'm saying is that we have a strict accounting system done by civilians," he said.

For instance, in the case of service fees, allegedly a fertile source of corruption at the PNP, Aglipay said there was practically no contact between policemen and those who assess their payments.

Transactions, he explained, were handled exclusively by a private bank to eliminate chances of bribery and corruption.

In another interview with the inquirer, however, a senior police official said service fees usually become a source of corruption when an officer, in connivance

with key members of the "comptroller family" pockets a portion of the amount.

He said these fees represent payments the PNP gets for handling the collection of fees for, say, Pag-Ibig Fund.

The alleged service fee racket is one of several purported "businesses" involving a number of PNP officials.

A much more lucrative source of extra income allegedly involves the collection of unpaid allowances by some officials, again in connivance with budget officials, according to the source, a former member of the PNP's Office for Comptrollership.

Then there's the "throwback" system where some officers allegedly "throw" a cut from the PNP budget to another officer, usually a subordinate, and gets "back" a hefty loot.

The source said the "throw" part was essential so both sides could doctor documents justifying the transaction through projects that usually exist only on paper.

## Not a good day for robbers

**PARAÑAQUE** City policemen have arrested two suspected members of a criminal syndicate allegedly behind the series of robberies involving automated teller machines (ATMs) of the International Exchange Bank.

P/Supt. Rolando Estilles, Parañaque City police chief, identified the two as Bobby Cruel Marcos, 24, a native of Guimaca, Quezon, and Ricardo Nican Terrado, 24, a native of Pastrana, Leyte. Both are alleged members of the "Cruel Ruler Gang."

Estilles said Marcos and Terrado allegedly had a hand in at least three robberies in the ATM booths of the International Exchange Bank in Parañaque.

The first robbery incident happened at about 7:26 a.m. on Oct. 9 at IE Bank Sucat located along Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Valley II, Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque City.

The two suspects ran off with P15,000 that was about to be withdrawn from the ATM by an ATM holder.

Less than two hours later, the suspects struck again at the IE Bank-BF Homes Branch, along President Avenue, BF Homes, Parañaque.

Estilles said the suspects tried to pull off another robbery on Oct. 16 at the IE-Bank ATM-Sucat branch, but this was foiled by an alert security guard.

Meanwhile, Pasig City police chief Sr. Supt. Raul Medina said three of nine suspects who robbed a bank in the city had been arrested yesterday after a raid in Barangay Pinagbahanan, Pasig City.

Medina identified the suspects as Rodolfo Ayop, Rogelio Miranda, and Ricardo Liones, 36.

Witnesses had identified the suspects as among those who robbed the Country Bank Inc., Nancy C. Carvajal and Luige A. del Puerto

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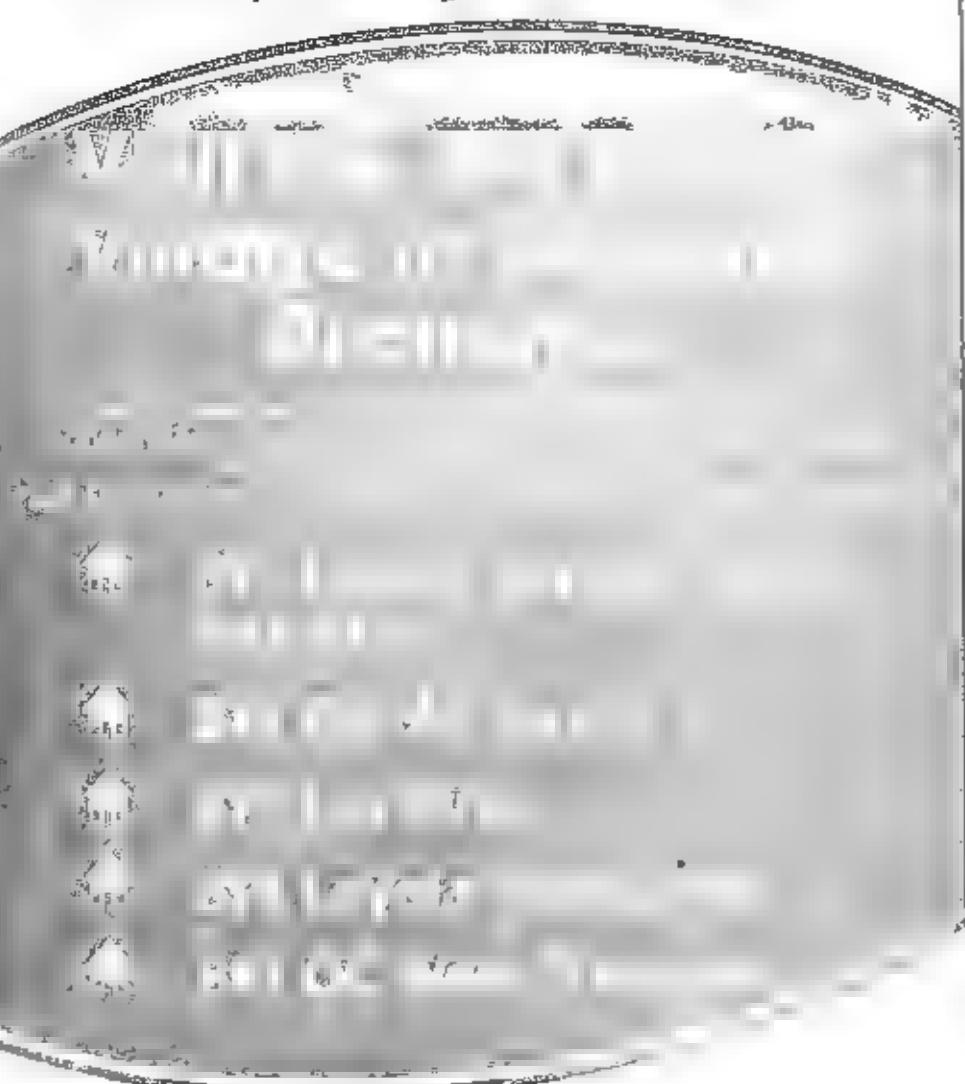


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TUESDAY,  
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E-mail: pr\_metro@inquirer.com.ph

# METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil  
Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibee

## Taxpayers take break

By Nancy C. Carvajal

GOOD news for taxpayers in Parañaque City.

The Parañaque City government said yesterday it would condone certain percentages of surcharges and interests of its taxpayers' property taxes—but subject to certain conditions.

The 45-day tax holiday, to take effect from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, is contained in an ordinance approved by the Parañaque City council and signed by Mayor Florencio Bernabe on Oct. 5.

Among the government agencies that would benefit from the limited tax holiday are the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Public Estates Authority which have outstanding

interest payments on realty tax liabilities amounting to P360 million.

The tax holiday covers residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and other classes of real estate properties, including improvements, with several exemptions prescribed by existing laws.

Bernabe said the application of payment of real property taxes would be made from the earliest to the latest years when taxpayers had been delinquent in their payments.

"Only after delinquencies made in the years prior to 2004 are settled can the tax relief be availed of and payments credited for the current period," Bernabe said.

However, those with pending cases or those with cases under protest with the courts are not qualified to apply for the

tax relief provided by Ordinance No. 9, the mayor added.

Bernabe said the ordinance provides for a 100 percent diminution of interests and surcharges from Nov. 1 to 30, and a 50 percent discount in interests and surcharges from Dec. 1 to 15.

Councilor Gustavo Tambunting, the principal author of the ordinance, said substantial losses currently experienced by Parañaque business establishments had prompted him to sponsor the ordinance.

"One way the city government can show due regard and sensitivity to the sorry state and plight of Parañaque's business concerns and its residents, is by providing relief through measures such as condoning portions of penalties and interests on delinquent real property taxes," he said.

## Imported carrots seized

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU of Customs yesterday ordered the confiscation of 10 container vans of illegally imported carrots worth P18 million at the Port of Manila (POM).

POM district collector Ronnie Silvestre said the shipment, which came from Qingdao, China, had no import permits.

Silvestre said his office earlier checked with the office of Director Clirito Barron of the Bureau of Plant Industry to determine if there were import permits for the carrots, and found out there were none.

Eight out of 10 seized container vans that were consigned to AGR Trading had no import entries filed in the BOC. The two other vans, consigned to Southfield Agricultural Products, were declared as garlic shipments.

Customs agents found the undeclared amount of carrots behind stocks of garlic.

Customs Commissioner George Jereos ordered the shipment seized and detained in favor of the government for violations of the laws on agriculture products importation and the traffic and customs code.

## Train hits woman

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—A Manila-bound Philippine National Railways train hit a woman as she was crossing the railway tracks at Barangay Timugan here at about 6:30 a.m., yesterday, killing her instantly.

PO2 Elmer Gibe identified the victim as Altea Jane Catacutan, 24, of Cotabato City, a sister of PO1 Arlyme Catacutan of the Southern Police District.

Gibe told the Inquirer that Catacutan was on her way to a bus stop after she had crossed the tracks when the train hit her. The train had sounded its horn, but the victim must have not noticed it, police said. Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

EZ2	SUERTRES
2 4	9 8 4
FOUR DIGIT	
2 5 6 1	
(In exact order)	
MEGALOTTO 6/45	
6 8 36 37 42 43	

## ON TARGET

Ramon Tuflo

I RETURNED from Palawan during the weekend where I went to visit my farm and renew ties with friends and acquaintances.

In renewing old ties, I got a bonus: bus and pieces of information on the latest happenings in Puerto Princesa City, the capital.

I learned why Air Force Brig. Gen. Prospero Ocampo, chief of the 570th Tactical Wing, was relieved of his assignment. The 570th is based in Puerto Princesa and under the operational supervision of the Western Command.

Many people in Manila were wondering about Ocampo's sudden relief from one of the Air Force's key posts. But the people in Puerto Princesa know why.

Ocampo was sacked because of his wife, Evelyn, who had allegedly been converting office supplies for the 570th into cash.

"Man, kung marami sya sa NCCC, parang kanya ang supermarket! (When she shopped at NCCC, you'd think she owned the supermarket)," said a Puerto Princesa resident.

But why did Ocampo allow his wife to interfere in his job? The general, my source said, is "under the saya" or henpecked.

In fact, during the Balikatan exercises early this year, Ms. Ocampo allegedly cornered all the contracts to set up stores that sold goods to the American soldiers.

But the guy who replaced Ocampo, Col. Arsenio Marquez, is also like Ocampo, if not worse.

Marquez, according to another source, has ordered a house built on a beach as his quarters. He had white sand brought in to cover the black sand surrounding his beach house.

What happened to you, my friend and compadre? You were not like that before.

Perhaps he imagines himself

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"Ang mihaga lamang sa tanong-bayan o "transparent" ang pagtulis, alinsunod sa bato, at inkarani ng simbahan ang klaseng"

Fred Soriano, Muntinlupa City

living in Boracay," said the other source.

Marquez is also allegedly converting office supplies into cash, said an insider at Wescom.

Marquez, said yet another source, was also trying to corner money set aside for the military by an oil company that's building the Malampaya oil project. The military is assigned to guard the project.

The money was supposed to be for the Navy, Marines, Army and Philippine National Police men guarding Malampaya.

But Marquez said that only the 570th, his unit, was capable of guarding Malampaya. Therefore, he should get all the funds.

Ang takaw naman nitong si Marquez!

I also learned that my friend and compadre, a Chinese-Filipino businessman in the city, is now a secret agent (kuno) of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA). As such, he carries a formidable arsenal in his car: a Streetsweeper shotgun, an M-16 Armalite and his .45-cal. pistol.

This Chinoy businessman now goes around town telling all and sundry that he's the Filipino version of James Bond, secret agent 007, when he's had a little too many drinks.

The latest trouble he got into was poking his gun at tricycle drivers who called the police.

When the police, led by Chief Insp. Nelson Sumanda, got to the scene, the Chinoy told them to back off. He threatened to have them all relieved from their posts.

What happened to you, my friend and compadre? You were not like that before.

Perhaps he imagines himself

BASEBALL: MLB NL Championship Series-Cards vs. Astros, Game 5, 8 p.m., ESPN  
—Houston won the last two to tie the series against St. Louis.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL: Bucs vs. Rams, 9 a.m. (8:30 p.m.); CBS  
—Tampa Bay takes St. Louis in the NFC.

TELEVISION: Masters Series, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., Star Sports—Round One  
and Two goes underway in Madrid.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



TUESDAY,  
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# DOJ to 5 'Fil-shams': Leave or face arrest

By Philip C. Tuba

**L**EAVE voluntarily or face deportation.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday issued this challenge to five of the six so-called "Fil-shams" he ordered deported for faking their Filipino citizenship.

Gonzalez said that while the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) players could appeal his decision to deport them, they would be detained while the appeal process is ongoing.

The DOJ chief had earlier released a resolution ordering the Bureau of Immigration to "undertake with hasty dispatch the summary deportation proceedings against" Davonn Harp, Jon Ordonio and Mick Pennisi of Red Bull Barako, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra.

## Taulava deportation pending

Gonzalez said Talk N' Text's Asi Taulava should also be deported, but the deportation proceedings against him "must be held in abeyance unless and until" the Sept. 6, 2003 injunction issued by a Manila Regional Trial Court is lifted.

Gonzalez said he has ordered Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo to ask the Manila RTC to lift its injunction order, which the DOJ considers to be a

violation of the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

"We cannot allow an injunction to make an alien a Filipino," Gonzalez had said.

Gonzalez said the players "can always appeal. That is their right."

"But they will be appealing to me and that would be useless unless they present newly discovered credible evidence. This case has been hanging for a long time," Gonzalez said.

"They could leave voluntarily. If they're illegal aliens, they could be detained while their cases are on appeal," he added.

## Seigle, Peña cleared

In his three-page resolution, Gonzalez ordered the revocation of the certificates of recognition granted to Ordonio, Harp, Hatfield, Pennisi and Crisano, paving the way for their deportation.

He cleared Andy Seigle of Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer's Durian Peña of charges that they faked their citizenship papers.

Gonzalez also directed the National Bureau of Investigation to form a special task force to investigate the liability of the team owners, managers, talent scouts and sports agents of the six PBA players in falsifying public documents.

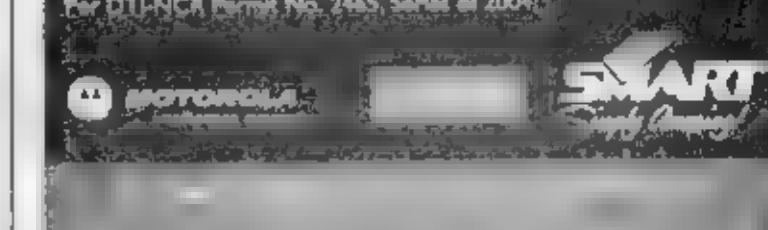
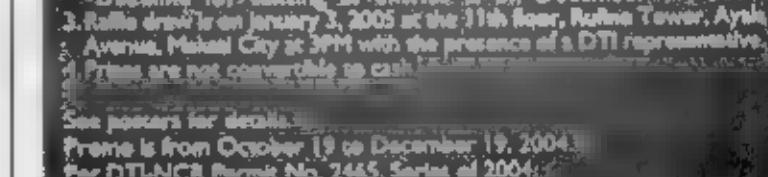
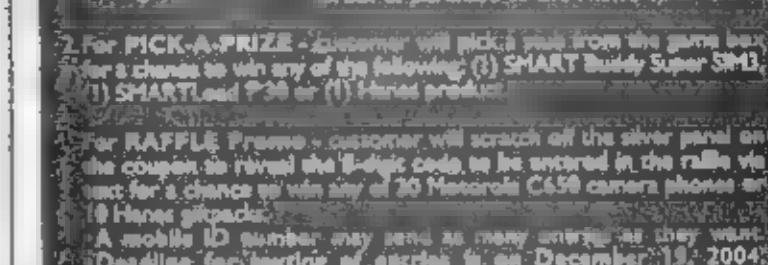
Gonzalez said the talent scouts and sports agents might be the brains behind the falsification of the players' citizenship and that the cagers and the PBA might just be "victims."

"In the event that a prima facie case of falsification will be filed before the prosecutor's office, the Chief State Prosecutor is directed to form a task force from the National Prosecution Service that will specifically handle all cases of falsification arising from the Fil-sham scam," Gonzalez said.

He also ordered the NBI to coordinate with the Office of the Ombudsman's Fact Finding and Intelligence Bureau for the filing of falsification and

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## SPORTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

# Indians trip RP chessers

## Paragua, Senador fall to all-GM fifth seeds sans Anand

MALLORCA, Spain—Fifth-ranked India found no need for world No. 2 Viswanathan Anand in hurling the Philippines, 3-1, Sunday in the third round of the World Chess Olympiad.

Filipino Grandmasters Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio held their own in the top boards, but the bottom half collapsed under the weight of the Indians' fire.

International Master Mark Paragua fell to nemesis GM Surya Sekhar Ganguly while Emmanuel Senador, seeing action for the first time, bowed to GM Abhijit Kunte.

The loss, a repeat of their similar defeat in Bled, Slovenia two years ago, pulled down the Filipinos to a tie for 34th place in the 129-team field with China, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Estonia and Indonesia.

"It's a small setback. We can bounce back," said RP team captain Sammy Esomo.

The Filipinos, seeded a modest 40th, took the loss good-naturedly.

"Mag agimat yata si Ganguly. Lahat ng tira nyo eksakto (It seems Ganguly has an amulet; all his moves are precise)," said



MARK Paragua bows to nemesis anew.

Paragua, who has now lost all four meetings with the Indian.

The Filipinos hope to bounce back against 51st seed Ireland on Monday.

Antonio, complaining of high blood pressure, and Senador will sit out the fourth round. Taking their spots are IM Jayson Gonzales and Darwin Laylo, who

will join Torre and Paragua.

A piece of good news came in the women's section where the troika of Women FIDE Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao, WFM Beverly Mendoza and rookie Loreshly Cuizon scored their second straight win at the expense of Malaysia, 2-1.

Lomibao, a three-time Olympian, upset WFM Sri Zulaiha in 40 moves of a Bishop's Opening to cap the victory.

Earlier, Cuizon, 18, drew with Rosina Mamon in 43 moves of a Trompovsky, while Mendoza split the point with Nur Shazwani Zulkafli in 34 of a Guocco Piano.

The Filipinas, who beat Finland, 2-1, Saturday, now have 4.5 points, good for joint 40th place in a field of 87 nations.

Despite anticipating Anand's absence in the lineup, the Filipinos barely avoided a bloodbath against an all-GM team.

Torre (2518), playing his first match since topping the Tacloban Open at home four months ago, used the Nimzo-Indian defense with black to hold GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2668) to a draw after 35 moves.

The 52-year-old veteran, the team's top board player since 1972, broke a two-game

jinx against Sasikiran, who last beat him in the Asian Championships last year in Qatar.

Despite a pawn advantage, Torre accepted a draw offer from Sasikiran.

"It's a draw anyway with opposite colored bishops," Torre said.

Earlier, Antonio (2524), playing white, also accepted a truce offer from GM Pentalu Harikrishna (2612) after 26 moves of a Ruy Lopez Opening. Antonio now has 2.5 points in three matches.

Essayng the Sicilian, the 20-year-old GM candidate Paragua (2534) played aggressively and forced Ganguly (2559) into time trouble despite a pawn down.

Down to just 20 seconds, Ganguly found the correct play staved off the Filipino's mating threat, and went on to secure the win in 52 moves.

Senador (2432) lost a pawn in the opening and had no answer to the precise play of Kunte (2550).

Ukraine vaulted into the solo lead with a perfect 12 points following a 4-0 win over the Czech Republic. Defending champion Russia, Israel and Bulgaria are tied for second spot with similar 10.5 points.

# Asi plays on borrowed time for Phone Pals

By June Navarro and Jasmine W. Payo

WITH Asi Taulava now playing on borrowed time, Talk 'N Text tries to extend its unbeaten run to four when it collides with Purefoods in the Gmn Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Lamberto Macias Sports Center in Dumaguete City.

Taulava, whose deportation was held in abeyance due to a court injunction, remains eligible to play for the Phone Pals in the 6 p.m. game with the TJ Hordogs, who have a 2-1 card in a tie with Shell and FedEx.

The Department of Justice ordered earlier in the day the deportation of Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi and Jon Ordonez, Coca-Cola's Rudy Hatfield and Barangay Ginebra's Alex Crisano for faking their Filipino citizenship.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Taulava should also be deported, but the deportation proceedings was held in abeyance until the injunction his lawyers secured from a Manila Regional Trial Court

GAMES TODAY (Lamberto Macias Sports Center, Dumaguete City)  
6 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Purefoods

on Sept. 6, 2003 is lifted.

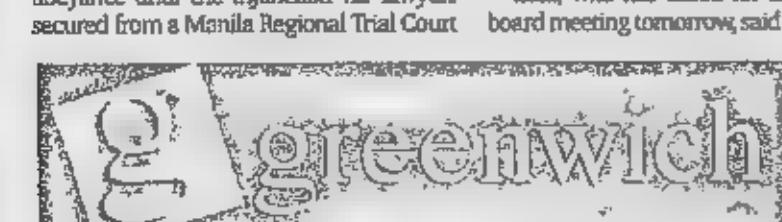
"We cannot allow an injunction to make an alien a Filipino," said Gonzalez, who had ordered Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo to ask the Manila RTC to lift the injunction.

"We know he can still play for the team today. We're still waiting for a memo, so we're still playing it by ear," said Talk 'N Text manager Franklin Lim.

"Asi doesn't want to comment. But I know his family is disappointed. We're telling him not to let it bother him," added TNT assistant coach Virgil Villavicencio.

It was business as usual for the PBA, however. While Commissioner Noli Eala confirmed the release of the DOJ resolution, he said the PBA "wants to get the official copy before we could act on it."

Eala, who has called for an emergency board meeting tomorrow, said the five play-



## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

TEAM STANDINGS  
(as of October 17, 2004)

GROUP A	W	L	GROUP B	W	L
Colegio San Agustin	5	0	Olivarez College	4	1
Rizal High School	3	2	JASMS	3	1
OB Montessori Greenhills	2	1	ICA Osmeñan	3	0
Diliman Preparatory	2	1	CP Montessori Los Pinos	2	1
St. Francis School	1	1	Holy Christian School	2	1
Caritas Don Bosco	1	1	Miriam College	2	0
In'tl Christian School	1	1	Assumption College	1	2
Southville Int'l School	0	1	St. Mary's Academy Pasig	1	2
Woodrose Alabang	0	1	Pearlside Learning Center	1	2
St. Paul's College Pasig	0	1	St. Francis of Assisi Bacoor	1	1
Zedler Aguirreza College	0	2	St. Jude Catholic School	0	1
Green Christian School	0	2	Concordia Christian School	0	2
KCA Greenhills	0	2	Beverley's Int'l. School	0	2

SATURDAY RESULTS: Miriam depended on Godengiao, Agbayni, Barrion and Palis to out-apply rival OB Montessori Los Pinos 25-12, 25-15 at the St. Francis of Assisi College gym. Other winners were Rizal High School d. Grace Christian School 25-20, 19-25, 29-18. OBM - Greenhills d. St. Francis School. MIA 25-25, 16. Olivarez College d. Assumption School 25-17, 25-27, 25-21. Hope Christian School d. Peveda Learning Center 25-12, 25-21.

SUNDAY RESULTS: Hope Christian surprised favored local school d. Francis of Assisi with disk shots & aplausos from trio Beyince Co. Joann Ching & Jamieson Perer in straight sets 25-12, 25-16. Olivarez College d. JASMS 25-13, 25-19. Miriam Preparatory d. Grace Christian School 25-13, 25-21. Colegio San Agustin d. Rizal High School 25-14, 25-14. Assumption College d. UII Montessori Site. ASU 25-14, 25-19.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE TWO top officials of the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday traded barbs over the decision of the Southeast Asian Games Federation to approve 41 sports but with only 388 events for next year's edition in the country.

POC chair Robert Aventajado criticized POC president Celso Dayrit for compromising the country's chances of winning the overall title by "being too magnanimous" to other countries during the recent SEAG council meeting.

The taekwondo president openly questioned Dayrit's "disturbing policies," particularly in the choice of sports disciplines to be included, which

Aventajado claimed were never discussed in the POC executive council.

"It is an accepted fact in the SEA Games that indigenous sports or other sports where the host country has great chances of winning are all included in the program," said Aventajado.

"Nag-harap ka pa (What's the use of hosting it?)" added Aventajado.

But Dayrit said it was the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee which decided the sports disciplines and events to be included.

"I don't make unilateral decisions. I only sit there as a SEAG Federation president," he said. "What do they want to do, put in as many arms events as possible?"

THIS early, Manila is preparing for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games. Already in place is the 2nd Manila Marathon set for Nov. 28. Billed as the biggest foot race on Philippine soil, the marathon is offering half a million bucks to the winners. It will start and end at the Rizal Park.

"The Manila Marathon will be the dry run of our preparations for the 2005 SEA Games," said Ali Atenza, the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atenza.

Ali, named after the greatest boxer of all time (Muhammad Ali), has become so famous with his passion for sports that people close to him now call him, "Mr. Sportsaholic."

Said Ali, "Manila being the chief host of the region's biggest sports event, we wouldn't leave anything to chance. This marathon will put to test the ability of our men and women to handle an event involving no less than 40,000 people, while at the same time, serve as a possible discoverer of talents for the SEA Games in the marathon event next year."

The marathon has always been regarded as a test of endurance and stamina to any athlete hooked to the event, which is run a little over 42 kilometers. The event is actually the trigger of the Olympic Games.

OK, you want history?

A man ran from a scene of a bloody battle to the seat of power then in Greece just to relay the news that Athens had been saved from invading forces. Just seconds after the runner, whose name escapes me at the moment, had said the news, he collapsed and died.

Aside from the cash bonanza that awaits the winners, Ali Atenza, who chairs the Manila Sports Council (Masco), said other prizes are

up for grabs during the raffle for those attending the awarding ceremonies, with Nike and Smart Communications as chief backers.

The event is unique in that it is divided into seven divisions—the 42-K, 10-K, 5-K, Media 5-K, Celebrity 5-K and the differently abled 3-K races, featuring men and women categories. There is also a 3-K fun run for 15-and-under kids.

For the 42-K, prizes for the winners total P395,000. The 10-K and Media 5-K events offer P20,000 each. The other prize distribution: P12,000 in both the 5-K and Celebrity 5-K, as well as in the Differently abled 3-K. Medals will be awarded to the winners in the 15-and-under kids 3-K fun run.

The 42-K race will begin at 4 a.m. at Roxas Boulevard (between the Rizal Monument and Quirino Grandstand) and will pass Tondo, Quiapo, Binondo, Sampaloc, Sta. Mesa, Sta. Ana, Paco, San Andres, Singalong, Malate and back to the Rizal Park.

Mayor Atenza will lead the runners at flag off, together with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buahin and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, among others.

Runners from Manila's 897 barangays, the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, City Col-

# Cebu five blasts Cotta, levels series

CEBU CITY—Tribu Sugbu bounced back with a 106-86 thrashing of Ozamiz Cotta Sunday night to tie their best-of-three series for the NBC (National Basketball Conference) South division pennant at the Cebu Coliseum here.

The Slydog-backed Cebu Tribes adjusted well to the Cotta's man-to-man defense and contained Ozamiz's point guard, Egy Echevez, to make up for their 87-93 loss in the opener and forge the decisive Game 3 at 6 p.m. today, also at the Cebu Coliseum.

The winner tonight will claim the South crown and meet the North champion in the national finals.

Forward Taguig took a 1-0 lead over Laguna Spring in the ongoing North division finals.

NBC Slam Dunk king Ruben dela Rosa led six Tribes with 18 points, seven rebounds, three assists, four steals and one block.

"We prepared well and avoided our Game 1 mistakes," said Cebu coach Al Solis. "We denied (Egy) Echevez the chance to orchestrate plays."

The Tribes of businessmen Lito Gilimac, Albert Tan and Dr. Kelly Vinaldo outrebounded and outlasted the taller boys of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog, 48-42, 19 off the offensive end to score 19 second chance points.

Boyer Guerrero scored on a layup to put Ozamiz within three, 63-66, early in the fourth quarter. But the Tribes uncorked a blistering 16-4 run behind Dela Rosa, Marvin Mercado and Jeffrey Sanders to pull away, 82-67.

The scores:

CEBU 106—Dela Rosa 18, Larong 15, Mercado 15, Concha 12, Griego 11, Sanders 11, Lanete 8, Janta 5, Pineda 4, Bucas 3, Tangay 2, Almadin 2, Elm 0, Gilnato 0.

OZAMIZ 86—Echevez 19, Basco 11, Fermin 10, Marquez 9, Basilio 8, Guerrero 7, Sampilo 7, Aranan 3, Alminario 2, Lihang 2, Rodriguez 2, Cabrera 2, Guiyot 2, Cabigas 2.

Quarters: 21-20, 46-40, 65-61, 106-86

# Harbour Centre, M. Lhuillier clip foes, remain 1-2

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Host Harbour Centre-Pampanga and the M. Lhuillier-Cebu City Jewelers reasserted their supremacy over their respective rivals Sunday night to keep the top two spots in the United Regional Basketball League (URBL) at the Archbishop Cineuse Gym of the University of the Assumption here.

Harbour Centre bested Lactovitale-Cebu Province Probiotics, 72-69, again for its third straight win that preserved its hold of second place with a 4-1 card.

M. Lhuillier also repeated over the Quezon Coco Huskers, 80-71, to remain unscathed in five games and become the first team to barge into the semifinals.

The scores:

M. LUHILLIER 80—Layo 24, Marata 14, Enriquez 10, Daos 8, Bat-og 7, Robi 5, De Guzman 4, Lumentas 4, I. Garcia 2, Aying 2, Cañete 0, Smith 0, Ocaña 0.

QUEZON 74—Booster 14, Rodriguez 13, Tierra 13, Kong 11, Ferri 6, Alcantara 5, Sesa 4, Belano 3, Tenorio 2, Nutria 0.

Quarters: 25-21, 49-31, 62-54, 80-71

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

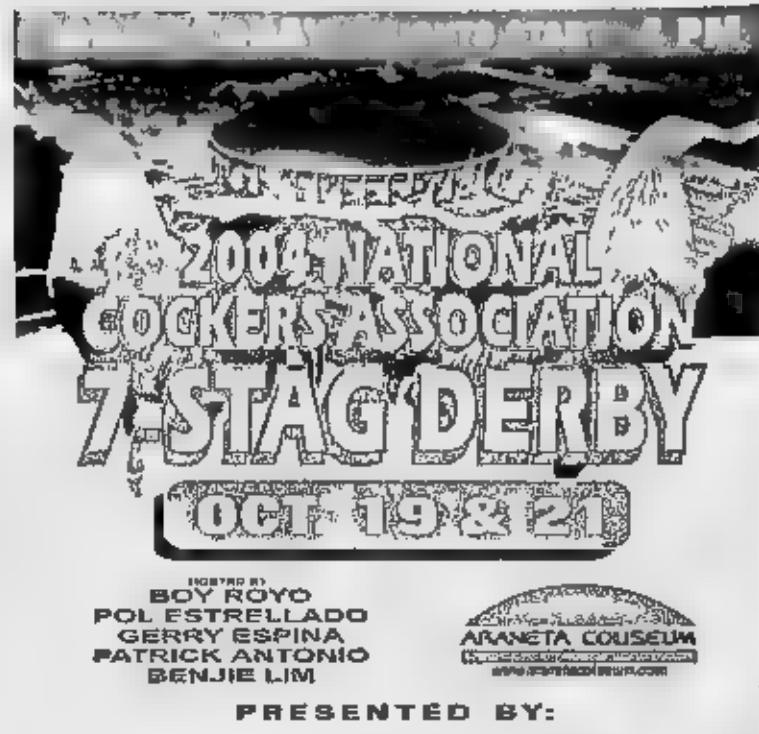
• PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER •

## SPORTS



### FAST— AND FURIOUS

Filipino Paul del Rosario rounds a buoy on the way to a first-place finish in the first heat of the jet ski World Finals in Arizona. Two disputed calls later, however, Del Rosario was disqualified by the event's technical committee and lost his second overall honors.



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# Tale of woe by RP champ

FILIPINO champion jet ski rider Paul del Rosario would have returned home to a hero's welcome.

Instead, he arrived empty-handed despite obliterating the field in the 2004 International Jet Sports Boating Association (JSBA) World Finals in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, recently.

Del Rosario still expects to get his due, however, after the US Yamaha Corp. filed an official protest on his behalf and contested the disqualification of his jet ski racing machine.

"The US Yamaha Corp. told me we have an 80-percent chance of winning because of the merits of our protest," Del Rosario told reporters yesterday at the Manila Yacht Club.

The technical committee of the World Finals took back his runner-up honors, claiming his boat was below the weight limit of 490 lb.

"My Superstock boat is a Yamaha GPR1200 that weighs 610 lb, which is still way within the limit," said Del Rosario, who is also backed by Petron, Manila Cordage, Network Jetsports and Stoked Inc. "I told them this was the same hull used by the 2002 World Finals by world champion Chris Lawrence and built by David Harvey, but they wouldn't listen. When they couldn't find an explanation for the disqualification, they simply told me my boat 'looks illegal.'"

Del Rosario was entered in the premier Superstock Division, where he crushed the challenge of world champion Theerawat Lhabib of Thailand in Race 1.

The Filipino, off to a good start again in Race 2, was already way ahead of the pack that included 2003 World Finals runner-up Robert Schatzke when he was red-flagged by the officials for supposedly not keeping his line straight going to the first turn.

"I was already way beyond the 50-percent mark to the first turn where you are already permitted to change lanes," he recalled. "That call cost me a world title."

Officials penalized Del Rosario by putting him

### SPORTSWATCH

#### Filipinos battle Malaysians

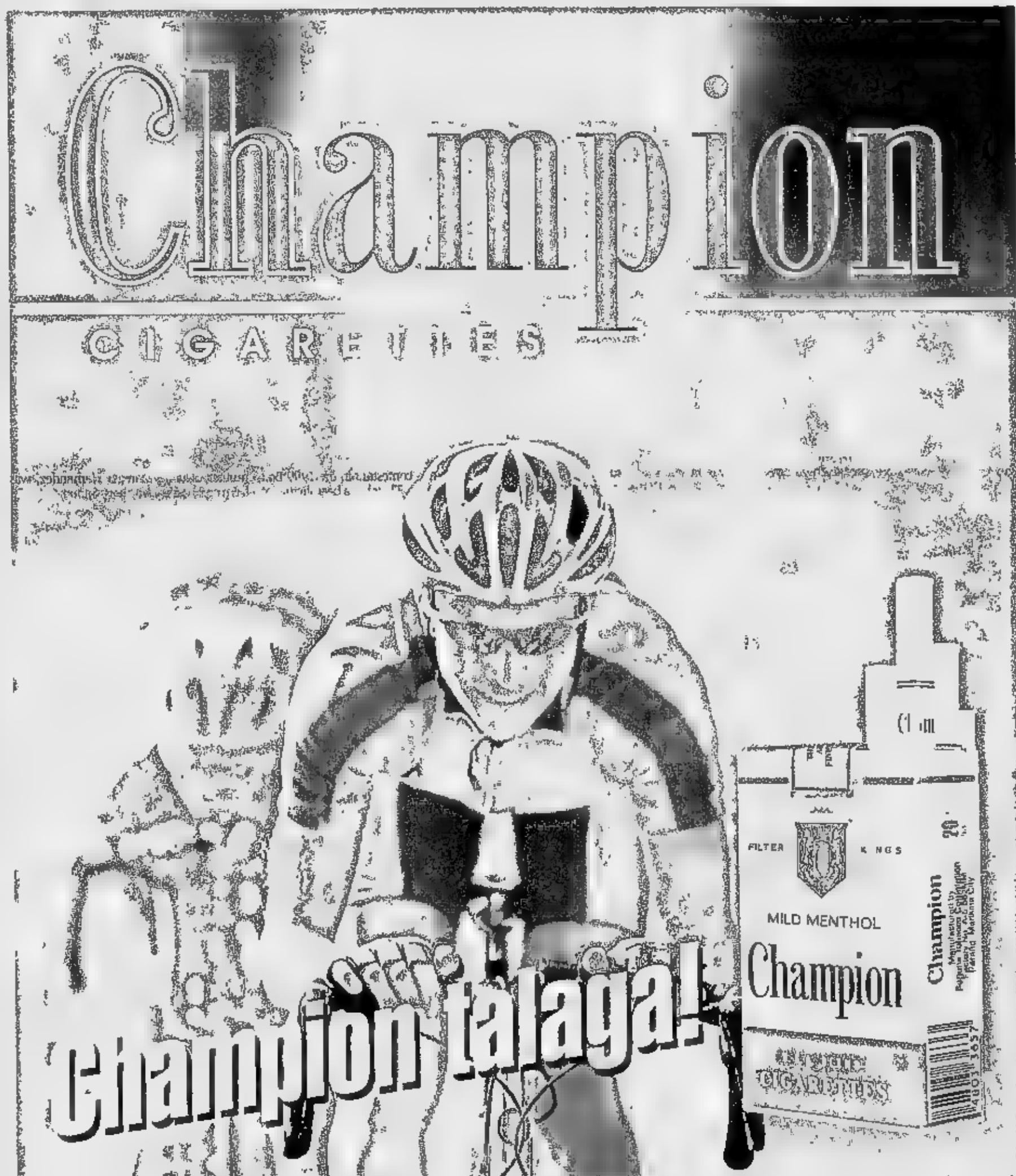
THE PHILIPPINES-Cebuana Lhuillier team faces host Malaysia tonight in the Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar International Invitational Basketball Championship in Kuala Lumpur. La Salle's BJ Manalo, University of the East's Nino Canafate, San Beda's Clark Moore and Jeff Bombaye, former PBL players Melchor Latoreno and Christian Zamzon beef up the RP team vying for the title against the hosts and the national teams of Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand. Veteran internationalists Ricky Calimag, Dennis Madrid and Donbel Villamain and 8-9 rookie Samigue Eman and Eder John Zaldua are also part of the team that hopes to scout the opposition in next year's Southeast Asian Games, said assistant team manager Danny Francisco. The Filipinos need face Thailand on Oct. 19.

#### Pinoy rowers bag 2 golds

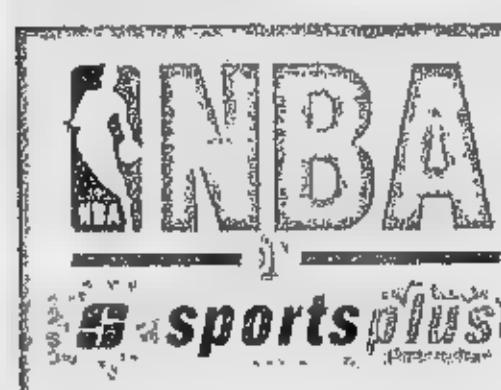
SHANGHAI, China—The Philippine men's dragon boat racing team won two gold medals in the 2004 Dragon City Cup China Longyol International Invitational Tournament here. The Filipinos ruled the 500-meter race in 2 minutes 1.44 seconds, and then completed a double by taking the 2,500-meter round racing event in 12 minutes 54.5 seconds. The event served as a preview of the fifth world championships to be conducted by the International Dragon Boat Federation here from Oct. 20 to 24. "We're happy with our twin victories," said delegation head and coach Nestor Ilagan. "But we need to work harder to improve our chances in the world competition."

#### NCA 5th leg derby slated

FOURTY entries are vying to steal the limelight from the Richard Bates-Ito Yñares partnership and Boy Jiao when the two-day penultimate leg of the NCA 7-Stag Derby unfolds on Oct. 19 at the Araneta Coliseum. The fifth derby in the series serves as a preview of next month's National Championship. The Bates-Yñares pair and Jiao, who is favored to bag the Stagfighter of the Year title, shared honors in the derby at the same venue last Oct. 5 and 7 by posting 6-1 slates. The Bates-Yñares entry, Biangonan Balikha Cutting Edge III, lost its first fight before winning its next six. The fifth edition of the derby series is presented by Unilever Thunderbird and hosted by Boy Royo, Poi Estrellado and Biliran Rep. Gerry Espina.



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# COAST to COAST

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## LONGEST GAME

# Ortiz homer lifts Sox past Yankees

BOSTON—David Ortiz smacked a two-run homer in the bottom of the 12th inning to give the Red Sox a 6-4 victory over the New York Yankees on Monday, enabling Boston to avoid a sweep in the American League Championship Series.

With Manny Ramirez on first base, Ortiz sent a Paul Quantrill pitch soaring over the right-field fence—setting off wild celebrations among the Fenway Park fans who stayed to watch what had become the longest game in ALCS history.

"This is a team that never gives up," said Ortiz, who drove in four of Boston's six runs. "That's the way the game is supposed to be played. You keep playing hard till the last out." Despite the defeat, New York leads the best-of-seven series 3-1 and can secure a World Series berth in Game Five later on Monday also in Boston.

Yankees manager Joe Torre tried to put a brave face on the loss, but warned that momentum can shift quickly.

"Every game has a life of its own... and good clubs come back from bad things happening," Torre said after the five-hour game, which started

on Sunday and finished in the early hours of Monday.

The Yankees had appeared to have the series wrapped up heading into the ninth inning with a 4-3 lead.

However, with no outs and pinch runner Dave Roberts having stolen second base, Bill Mueller singled to center field off ace New York closer Mariano Rivera, scoring Roberts and sending the game into extra innings.

Earlier, Alex Rodriguez put the Yankees on the scoreboard first by blasting a two-run homer off Red Sox starter Derek Lowe in the third inning.

Boston fought back in the fifth as Yankees starter Orlando Hernandez struggled. Orlando Cabrera drove in a run and then, with bases loaded, Ortiz singled to center field to add two more.

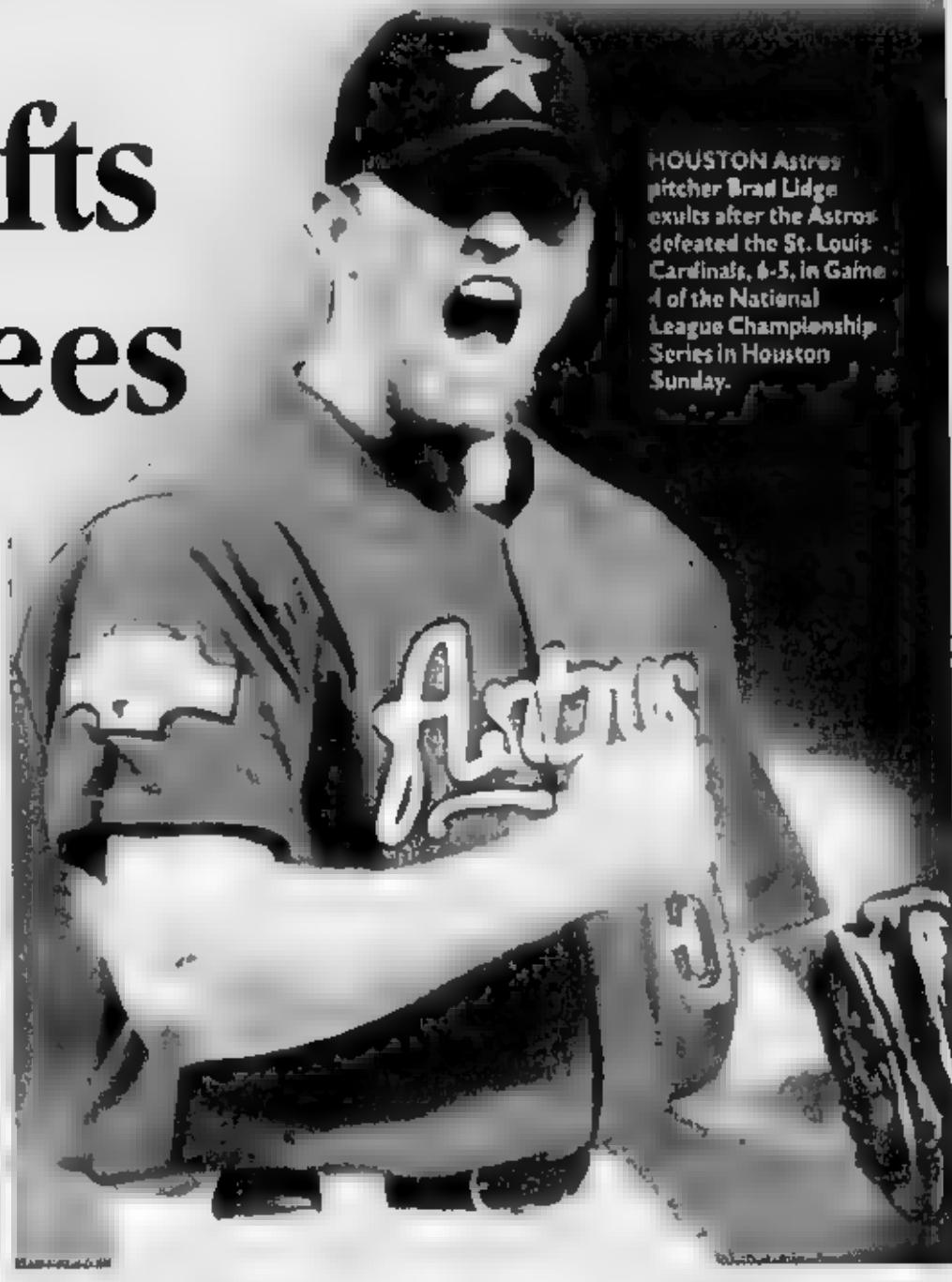
New York scored two more runs in the sixth, after Hideki Matsui, who had tripled off Lowe, was scored by Bernie Williams, before Tony Clark's RBI single drove in catcher Jorge Posada.

Hernandez struck out six but allowed five walks, three hits and three runs over five innings.

Reuters

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

## SPORTS



HOUSTON Astros pitcher Brad Lidge exults after the Astros defeated the St. Louis Cardinals, 6-5, in Game 4 of the National League Championship Series in Houston Sunday.

## Astros tie Cards

HOUSTON, Texas—Carlos Beltran homered for the fifth straight game, snapping a seventh-inning tie with a solo shot as Houston beat St. Louis, 6-5, Sunday to level baseball's National League Championship Series at two games apiece.

Already sure to be among the most sought after free agents in the offseason, Beltran is upping his market value with a superb postseason.

In his first postseason, the 27-year-old is batting .486 with 11 of his 18 hits going for extra bases. He also scored 19 runs and driven in 14 in Houston's nine playoff games.

After Houston erased an early 3-0 deficit and rallied from 5-3 down in the sixth with a pair of runs, Julian Tavarez was brought in to face Beltran to start the seventh. Already 1-for-2 with two runs scored in the contest, Beltran golfered a low 2-2 pitch over the right field wall.

## Sorenstam trips Park; Jenny 13th

PALM DESERT, California—Annika Sorenstam erased a three-shot deficit and cashed in on a breakdown by Grace Park to win the \$825,000 Samsung World Championship by three strokes on Sunday.

Sorenstam posted her tour-leading sixth win this season and 54th career victory.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales fired a 72 and wound up tied for 13th and 14th at 283. Rosales bagged \$16,000 (roughly P6556M).

The 34-year-old Swede engineered a six-shot swing over the final half dozen holes, highlighted by a superb 40-foot eagle chip at the 15th hole that allowed her to finally catch South Korea's Park.

"I was just thinking, It was a little trickier than I thought," Sorenstam said of the chip. "It was a lot downhill. I had a little problem reading the greens today. I couldn't really see all of the breaks. This one looked like it was breaking right and left, left and right, all over the place, so I pretty much played left-to-right, I wanted to get it close. It was birdie that I was counting for, so it was a nice surprise." Sorenstam took the lead for good with a six-foot birdie at the par-four 17th and she parred the final hole to complete a sizzling 32 on the back nine of the Bighorn Golf Club. Her bogey-free five-under-par 67 stood up as the best round of the day.

"You know, when I did chip-in, she probably looked at the leader board and suddenly felt, 'I've got some tough holes left and suddenly it's all even,'" Sorenstam said. APP



GRAYSON "The Professor" Boucher typifies AND 1 brand of basketball.

## DOJ to 5 'Fil-shams': Leave or face arrest

From page A17

graft charges against three civil registrars who allegedly helped in manufacturing three of the players' citizenship papers.

Quezon City assistant city registrar Asuncion D. Mendoza allegedly had a hand in the falsification of the certificate of live birth of Harp's father, Manuel Arce Gonzalez, while San Antonio, Nueva Ecija, municipal civil registrar Luz P. Austria allegedly faked the certificate of live birth of Penini's mother, Anita Tomeda Quintos.

Yuri D. del Valle Sr., municipal registrar of San

Jose, Northern Samar, would also be investigated for issuing the questionable certificate of live birth of Patrice Hernandez Mataki, Tuluava's mother.

These civil registrars issued the questionable certificates of live births to show that the player's parents were born in their localities and thus, were Filipinos. However, the Senate in 2003 and the DOJ committee that Gonzalez created to investigate the players concluded that these documents were spurious.

The DOJ committee, headed by Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III, recommended that Tuluava be deported even if he is married to Filippina Anna Mae Corveau.

The committee said there was enough "substantial evidence" to proceed with the second deportation of Tuluava on the grounds of "misrepresentation as a Filipino citizen" before the Bureau of Immigration and the Department of Justice when he applied for recognition as a Filipino citizen.

## Baguio leg of Samsung Tour on

BAGUIO—Former national amateur champ Dave Hernandez expects the toughest challenge from local aces in the sixth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour starting today at the Camp John Hay course in Baguio City.

Out to challenge Hernandez, the ex-pro from Calatagan Golf Club in his bid to join the elite championship division, are local ace Chester Calpotura and regular Tour campioner Jong Lapul.

This week's winner will join early qualifiers Juvel Pagunungan, who is set to lead the country's campaign in the Puerto Rico world amateur title, Raymund Sangil, Korean ace Kim Chang Hoi, Jay Bayron and Boyet Saragoza in the national finals.

Manila entries dominate the huge 180-player field, lured by perfect playing conditions at high altitude, which Baguio offers, and the chance to prepare early for the Fil-Am championships next month, according to organizer Boy Blue Ocampo.

"Nice weather, nice golf course. Golf in Baguio is always hard to resist," said Camp John Hay golf manager Bong Vilchez, who welcomed participants during their practice rounds yesterday.

Hernandez is seeking another major title after topping the Mt. Makaray mid-amateur tournament recently.

The last elimination leg will be played at the Cebu Country Club course on Dec. 14-17. For inquiries, call the PSMG office at 635-00-10.



BOXING BOSSES: Manuel T. Lopez (fourth from left) was elected president for a third term by the Abap Board of Trustees by acclamation recently. Seated (from left) Mayor Bengboy Yap, Nemesio Monton, lawyer Liberto Reyna, Gov. Raul Daza, Rogelio Fortaleza, Dr. Charis Cheng, Standing (from left) Odi Domingo, Emmanuel Alfedor, Babes Ciokon, Councilor Boogie Apostadero, Rep. Gigi Agabao, lawyer Pelagio Estopia, Mayor Ludovico Badoy, Ruben Roque, lawyer Boy Sering and Capt. Leary Balanay.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## ENTERTAINMENT

A1

### 'Star Circle Quest' rejects make it to 'StarStruck'

I HEARD that four of the latest "StarStruck" survivors first tried their luck in "Star Circle Quest" but they didn't even make it to the preliminary round.

If and when they win in GMA 7's "StarStruck," will ABS-CBN regret letting them go? How ironic that the two giant networks constantly mirroring each other's formats seem to have different standards in eyeing star material. I wonder if one day some of them will jump from the station that discovered them to the rival channel, like many big stars do.

In show biz, loyalty (to partners and networks) is always subject to change without prior notice. And the networks end up not knowing what struck them as they go around in circles.

#### 'Extra Challenge' contest

KNOW what makes "Extra Challenge" exciting even off-camera?

The reality show has two sets of staff who compete in coming up with a more innovative challenge in every episode. While the star challengers slug it out on-camera, the two groups of staff members are trying to outdo each other, too.

What a driven bunch! I heard that the challengers are paid not less than P80,000 so they really have to grin and bear it. Hopefully, no grave accident will ever happen on the show.

Still on "Extra Challenge," could it be true that romance blossomed between Joyce Jimenez and Wendell Ramos while they

#### DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



were on location in India? Oh well, love is the ultimate challenge of all!

#### Who asked for sex?

KATHERINE Luma is fuming mad at Aleck Bovick.

They used to be close friends and, at one point, Katherine even came to Aleck's defense when the latter was embroiled in a controversy with Jay Manalo. Katherine is linked by Aleck's insinuations that Katherine asked her to have sex with her.

"The truth is, Aleck was the one inviting me to join her and her manager in an orgy," alleged Katherine.

"She was on speaker phone while we were talking and I had friends with me at that time who can confirm that she really said that," said Katherine.

She feels that Aleck is just pretending to be a dyke to generate publicity. "I

don't believe that she's a T-bird," said Katherine. "Gimmick lang niya yan para magiging controversial. It's so cheap. I know her escapades with men. We used to have girls' talk and compare notes."

Be that as it may, Katherine has nothing against the third sex. "I can fall for anybody except the likes of Aleck," she added.

Friends, enemies and lovers. The demarcation lines get thinner as the plot gets thicker!

#### Success

THE ALLIANCE Française de Manille recently presented an evening fusing art and fashion and combined with video technology in "Au-Delà du vêtement (Beyond Garments) Fashion Video...Fashion Moments, at the Greenbelt Expo Exchange.

"Au-Delà du vêtement (Beyond Garments) Fashion Video...Fashion Moments" brought together the creative geniuses of the most progressive videographers from France, the

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## Screaming, crying girls mob Johnny Depp in London

LONDON—Throngs of screaming girls braved a chilly London night to get a glimpse of American actor Johnny Depp on Sunday as he arrived at the UK premiere of the film "Finding Neverland."

Depp was greeted by hundreds of

squealing young women, some crying, as they clamored for an autograph of the Hollywood heartthrob at Leicester Square in central London.

The 41-year-old star, who has been tipped to win an Oscar for his role as Pe-

ter Pan author J.M. Barrie in "Finding Neverland," obliged and took his time greeting fans as he strolled slowly along the red carpet.

Depp attended the premiere along with co-star Kate Winslet, who plays the

mother of the boy who gave Barrie the inspiration for the classic tale.

The British actress said she couldn't have played the role of Sylvia Llewelyn Davies if she wasn't a mother herself.

"It just changes how you are physical-

ly and it made a huge difference in playing this part," the actress told Sky News.

The film, which also stars Julie Christie and Dustin Hoffman, will be released in Britain on Oct. 29. *Reuters*

## MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING



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1.00M  
2  
3.00M  
4  
5  
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SECRET WINDOW  
PUNISHER

Jade Cinema

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1.00M  
2  
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4  
5  
LADDER 49  
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Mega Center Mall

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2  
3.00M  
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1  
2  
3.00M  
4  
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1  
2  
3.00M  
4  
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THE EXORCIST THE BEGINNING

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1  
2  
3.00M  
4  
PUNISHER  
OPEN WATER

## 'Star Circle Quest' rejects . . .

From page A21

Philippines' foremost group of young designers and models.

Each of the 12 members of The Young Designers Guild presented live creative expressions inspired by fashion videos made by international videographers and designers. The event was under the overall artistic design, supervision and direction of Robby Carmona of Saga Events.

Present during the affair were board members of the Alliance Française: Bernardo Sim, president; Au-

lio Montinola III, vice-president; Lulu Tan-Gan, cultural committee chair, and Sevrine Mialhe, education committee chair. Philippe Normand, institute director of the Alliance, also welcomed François Blamont, cultural counselor of the French Embassy in Manila.

"Au-delà du vêtement (Beyond Garments) Fashion Video . . . Fashion Moments" will continue its run at the Jorge B. Vargas Museum, Roxas Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Opening night is Oct. 19 and it will end on Nov. 19. It will also be shown simultaneously at the Alabang Total

Galleria at 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel Air II, Makati City up to Nov. 30.

### 'Sa Kandungan'

AFTER "Magnifico" and "Babae sa Breakwater," here's another film for the Philippines to be proud of.

Shot in digital format and with mostly amateur actors in the cast, "Sa Kandungan" (Heaven's Cradles) was included in the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival.

Produced by White Windows Film

Productions of Mr. Jae Jung Jang and shot in a leper colony, "Sa Kandungan" got a high rating when it was shown on GMA-7 last Holy Thursday and also earned a nomination from the recent CMMA together with "Crying Ladies," "Mano Po" and "Pilipinas." Unfortunately, CMMA did not declare a winner.

Marissa Tagasa, who wrote and directed the film, is hopeful that the feat of "Sa Kandungan" will inspire independent outfitts to produce sensible films that will help pave the way for Filipino filmmakers to penetrate the international film market.

For feedback, e-mail [wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com](mailto:wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com) or [dollyanne@truefaithband.com](mailto:dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

Official fears  
'sexy' ads  
might fill  
sidewalk

LUCENA CITY—The political opposition here has opposed the proposed conversion of the city's covered sidewalk as advertisement space for businesses.

Councilor Godofredo Falier expressed apprehension that the walkway would be filled with big photographs of sexy stars endorsing products.

But the local official who proposed the project, Councilor Dada Cabana, argued that an important provision of the proposal stresses that "all visual messages shall conform to decency and good taste."

The proposal is meant to generate additional revenue for the city. It is expected to earn an estimated P1.2 million a year from space rentals.

The project also aims to reinvigorate the business activity in the city's central district, which slowed down with the opening of three giant malls in the outskirts of the city last year, Cabana said.

Falier, however, maintained that the City Hall should instead amend the local ordinance that gives a five-year tax holiday to mall operators. Delfin T. Malalay Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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### LADDER 49



NETFLIX Rating PG 13

SM City Dasmarinas Cinema 2

SM City Baguio Cinema 4

SM City Bacoor Cinema 3

SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4

SM City Marilao Cinema 1

SM City Pampanga Cinema 1

SM City Cebu Cinema 6

SM City Baguio Cinema 7

SM City Bacoor Cinema 2

SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4

SM City Marilao Cinema 2

SM City Pampanga Cinema 2

SM City Cebu Cinema 6

SM City Baguio Cinema 7

SM City Bacoor Cinema 3

SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4

SM City Marilao Cinema 2

SM City Pampanga Cinema 1

SM City Cebu Cinema 6

SM City Baguio Cinema 7

SM City Bacoor Cinema 2

SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4

SM City Marilao Cinema 2

SM City Pampanga Cinema 1

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SM City Bacoor Cinema 3

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SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4

SM City Marilao Cinema 2

SM City Pampanga Cinema 1

SM City Cebu Cinema 6

SM City Baguio Cinema 7

SM City Bacoor Cinema 3

SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4

SM City Marilao Cinema 2

SM City Pampanga Cinema 1

SM City Cebu Cinema 6

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TUESDAY,  
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## BUSINESS

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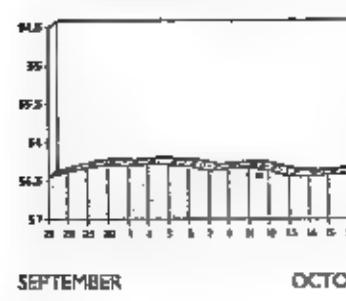
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## Tax perks coverage cut to 10 industries

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<b>P</b>	<b>56.41 = \$1</b>
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2004	
<b>V</b>	<b>109.64 = ₩1</b>
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 15, 2004	

GOLD: \$417.70-418.20 per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 10, 2004

## STOCK MARKET

## Stocks end higher

SHARES yesterday closed higher as investors, inspired by Wall Street's advance Friday bought into select stocks ahead of the release of third-quarter corporate results starting later this month, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 8.57 points, or 0.5 percent, at 1,789.98, after shedding 0.9 percent Friday. Gainers led decliners 33 to 25, while 51 stocks were unchanged.

Globe Telecom rose 0.5 percent to P1,045 after the country's second-largest cellular company announced earlier Monday it had launched an electronic payment service that would allow subscribers to make purchases in various local retail outlets.

Ayala Land rose 1.5 percent to 6.90 pesos on expectations of favorable third-quarter financial results.

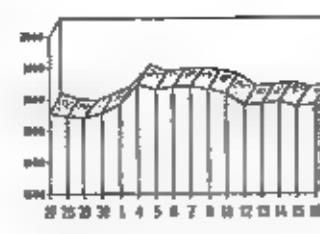
"The market got a little boost from gains in New York. That brought out the bargain-hunters," said PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro.

Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.4 percent, while the Nasdaq Composite Index gained 0.5 percent.

Liboro, however, noted that technical factors and concerns over high oil prices capped the market's upside.

"The market is just coming off overbought levels, but we don't see any reversals yet. We're waiting for the market to set a base," said Liboro.

"The high oil prices are also a worry, and they will continue to move up for the rest of the year as the winter season (in Western countries) sets in." AP



(See stock market report on Page B4)

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic team has identified the 10 industries that will enjoy fiscal incentives available under the rationalized Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), whose narrowing of coverage is intended to address the huge forgone revenue amid the country's fiscal problem.

According to the Arroyo administration's Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), the industries that are proposed to exclusively enjoy the privileges of the IPP are information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services, automotive, electronics, mining, healthcare, tourism, shipbuilding, fashion garments, jewelry, and agribusiness.

Companies belonging to industries covered by the IPP are granted an income tax holiday of four to six years, and are given duty-free privilege when importing capital equipment.

The 10 industries are a significant reduction from the wide array of sectors and business activities that were covered by the current IPP. The cutting of the list of the IPP, which is part of the economic team's program to rationalize the fiscal incentives available in the country, will be stated under the bill to be submitted under the a bill to be submitted by the Board of Investments (BOI) to Congress.

The economic team—which includes the heads of the BOI, the Department of Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda)—will push for three bills on the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

Aside from the BOI bill, the DOF has already submitted two draft bills, one on the lifting of value-added tax exemption of several products and services, and the

rental IPP. The cutting of the list of the IPP, which is part of the economic team's program to rationalize the fiscal incentives available in the country, will be stated under the a bill to be submitted by the Board of Investments (BOI) to Congress.

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Aside from the BOI bill, the DOF has already submitted two draft bills, one on the lifting of value-added tax exemption of several products and services, and the

other on the cancellation of tax and duty-free incentives granted under various special laws.

According to a government source, the 10 industries have been identified by the BOI, as head agency in the determination of the IPP coverage, through a recommendation by President Macapagal-Arroyo herself. The DOF and the Neda saw no objection to the list, the source said.

The BOI's bill, aside from reducing the number of covered industries, is also expected to seek for the changing of the IPP coverage every three years. Currently, the coverage of the IPP is revised every year. The objective of stretching the effectiveness of the IPP is to ensure financial stability of firms enjoying the fiscal perks before the incentives are removed.

If the BOI's bill is approved by Congress before the end of the year, as targeted by the economic team, then the new coverage of the IPP shall take effect starting

next year up to 2008.

The government source added that the DOF and the Neda were expected to come up with safeguards on the incentives to be granted by the government under the new IPP. The safeguards will be raised once the economic team drafts the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the fiscal incentives rationalization bill, should it becomes a law.

One of the safeguards the DOF is looking at is to prohibit companies to enjoy the IPP coverage twice. The source explained that there were instances in the past when some IPP-covered companies closed down immediately before their coverage expired, and then registered as a new company to once again enjoy the fiscal incentives under the IPP.

"The government should begin looking at the ownership of companies. That is to make sure they do not abuse the incentives because of

TAX/B4

## Gov't readies P550-M rehab of Channel 4

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority's Investment Coordination Committee has approved a proposal to rehabilitate National Broadcasting Network Channel 4, the only television station that the government intends to retain as its own.

The Neda said the rehabilitation project, which would cost P550 million, is intended to improve the quality of the TV station's coverage and to increase its signal coverage.

The NBN Immediate Rehabilitation Project would enable the network to fulfill its major function of disseminating information

on government priorities, programs, achievements and activities to the general public particularly to areas that have no access to other television channels," the Neda said in a statement.

The

project intends to refurbish and upgrade the current transmission system of NBN, and acquire modern digital equipment necessary for the development of new programs for the TV station. The project also aims to upgrade the facilities of NBN's provincial stations in Baguio, Cebu and Davao. The Neda said that equipment and facilities of the TV station, while

they are still working, were already obsolete.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri said in a telephone conversation that the government has decided to retain NBN Channel 4 as its sole TV station. He said the government was poised to privatize other state-owned TV stations—RPN Channel 9 and IBC 13.

According to Jonathan Uy, Neda director for public investment, 85 percent of the project cost would be shouldered by a loan from the US Export-Import Bank, while the remaining 15 percent would either come from the state-



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## BUSINESS

## Once more, with fillings

## BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

graft and corruption: "Gloriaetta—She never hesitates to risk her life for a photo-op with a U.S.-based Filipina who didn't quite make it in a singing contest."

AMONG the foreign investors here, no wonder this cute administration only gets a "miserable failed" mark for its first 100 days.

The surveys have shown it.

For what single major reform did we see in the past month? That the President of the Republic announced to the whole world that we were already in a fiscal crisis? That the President of the Republic is now accepting donations, in cash or in kind, to help solve the crisis?

YET THE spin doctors in Malacañang would rather talk about their deep personal regret—in public, of course—that newspapers always highlighted just the "bad news."

They pointed to a lot of "good news" in the inside pages; for instance, about how this or that foreign company is making good in the Philippines, and aren't you proud to be a Filipino, or something like that.

That's front page material, sure, but only because a lot of those companies decided to invest here way back in the previous administrations. Or because those foreign companies are doing well without much help from the government. Or, DESPITE the government.

And that, precisely, is the point of the bad news on the front page. Where are the freaking reforms? We want to read about them. Not the bitter musings of spin doctors!

WE ARE up to here with talk about the fiscal crisis. Day in and day out, we hear about how we have to make more sacrifices for the good of the motherland.

By "sacrifice," what they mean is, well, we just have to accept their decisions for us to shoulder some more new taxes, period.

Now, we are told that this Congress cannot possibly pass the 2005 budget. So what are all those bright people doing in Congress—just taking trips abroad?

And so our beloved lawmakers, spending billions upon billions of our tax money, will just have to "reenact" a two-year-old budget.

BREAKTIME



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TROLLEY

## Import of China carrots stopped

By Christine A. Gaylican

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur C. Yap has ordered the Bureau of Plant Industry to stop issuing import permits for Chinese carrots until a pest risk analysis (PRA) of the commodities have been conducted.

An independent study must (first be made to) verify the authenticity of a recent PRA made by the Bureau of Plants," Yap said. "This will provide more credibility to the previous study."

The halt in the importation of Chinese carrots is also due to the Agriculture department's crackdown on vegetable smuggling.

The Bureau of Plant Industry, an attached agency of the DA, recently has been rocked with controversy after some of its officials were reported to be abetting vegetable smugglers.

According to Alyansa Agrikultura national coordinator Ernesto Ordonez, onions and carrots smuggled from China are finding their way to local markets.

The suspected smugglers reportedly negotiate with Agriculture officials to allow the entry of some 500,000 kilos of produce from China.

Benguet provincial board member John Kim, a member of the vegetable anti-smuggling task force, urged the Bureau of Customs to immediately destroy the alleged smuggled onions that had been seized recently.

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PSBank Center, 777 Pasco de Roxas cor. Sedenio St., Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION  
(Head Office and Branches)

As of September 21, 2004

## ASSETS

P	484,813,632.50
	876,937,097.48
	1,542,778,483.91
	750,000,000.00
	18,320,379.87
P	11,449,300,811.42
	22,289,789,723.53
	46,910,751.00
	1,532,120,051.45
	2,040,144,110.42
	1,170,295,367.42
P	42,201,410,409.00

## LIABILITIES

P	1,526,127,120.74
	21,664,724,832.43
	13,543,223,981.48
	9,000,000.00
	182,898,090.44
	40,600,072.21
	652,881,821.93
P	37,619,456,919.23

## CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

P	1,795,015,200.00
	2,447,383,212.46
	339,566,077.31

## TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

P 4,581,954,489.77

## TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

P 42,201,410,409.00

## CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

P	358,785.42
	Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements
	Invested in:
	Government Securities
	Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock
	Other Assets
	Accountabilities:
	Trust & Other Fiduciary
	Common Trust Funds
	Investment/Fund Management
	Other Contingent Accounts
P	1,036,278,590.49
	159,011,400.35
	297,710.81
	876,969,479.33
	70,881,271.47
P	1,107,518,627.38

Additional Information:

1. Deposits of	P	
a) Government		1,223,059.94
b) Banks		9,236,080.83
c) Trust Department		
2. a. Total Non-Performing Loans		1,191,740,392.42
b. Classified Loans & Other Risk Assets		8,933,857,629.48
c. General Loan Loss Reserve		214,686,230.03
d. Specific Loan Loss Reserve		659,912,507.88
e. Total DOSRI Loans/Advances		1,935,808,232.32
f. Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances		
g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		4.67%
h. Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		7.58%
i. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio		
J. Return on Equity		10.25%

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Makati City

We, NOLI S. GOMEZ and PASCUAL M. GARCIA, III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) NOLI S. GOMEZ  
First Vice President

(Sgd) PASCUAL M. GARCIA, III  
President

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Doc. No. 186  
Book No. 38  
Page No. CLX  
Series of 2004

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

# CAP told to refund deposits

By Elizabeth L Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission's non-traditional securities department is studying penalties to be imposed on pre-needed giant College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. for exceeding the amount of education plans it was allowed to sell.

Earlier, the company was allowed to sell only up to P5 billion of education plans. However, the SEC said CAP exceeded this limit by P100 million.

SEC director Emilio Aquino said the NTD had also asked the pre-needed firm to refund deposits made by clients even if there were no policies issued to them as CAP claimed.

The SEC's NTD is also giving CAP seven days to make a report on the deposits and 15 days from receipt of the letter last week to refund the deposits.

CAP earlier said that despite an SEC order in August prohibiting the company from selling securities, clients had volunteered to make a deposit for the purchase of education plans in anticipation of a future SEC approval for new securities to be issued. Such deposits, CAP said, were treated as "suspense accounts."

The SEC under former chair Liha Bautista had ordered CAP to temporarily stop selling securities since middle of August until it had fulfilled the requirements for its application to sell new securities. CAP has already exhausted its allowed limit of P5 billion worth of plans.

It is now in the process of preparing its application to sell new securities worth roughly P1 billion.

CAP was also prevented from selling plans since its dealer's license expired last Sept. 30.

As of July, CAP exceeded the P5-billion limit by P64 million. The SEC said another P50 million worth securities were sold in August. CAP, however, argued that it has yet to release its official sales reports for September.

In a pre-needed industry report submitted to the SEC last August, CAP said it sold roughly P54.8 million worth of education plans in August alone, covering 636 plans.

SEC Chair Fe Barni said the NTD was authorized to issue such orders to CAP. The Commission en Banc however has yet to decide on its position on the matter.

## Basic, Thai firm plan oil venture

BASIC Consolidated Inc. yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with Bangkok-based S.F. Pass International Co. Ltd. to jointly venture into oil exploration.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Basic and S.F. Pass will jointly or individually look for areas related to oil exploration and development activities in the country or in other countries where they could invest, acquire participating interest or enter into a joint venture agreement with another legal entity.

Basic said it would undertake due diligence processes—or examine the financial books—of prospective projects.

After three decades of oil exploration, Basic became an investment holding company in 1997 and diversified into a group of wholly owned companies that included Basic Petroleum and Minerals Inc. (BPMI), Basic Diversified Industrial Holdings Inc. (BDIH), Basic Consolidated Land Inc. and Basic Consolidated International Inc.

Together with other participants, Basic was a party to Service Contract No. 14 for the exploration, development and exploitation of certain areas in offshore Northwest Palawan where oil discoveries were made. In 1998, Basic transferred its interest in SC 14 to BPMI.

The non-oil investments are handled by BDIH. These include petrochemicals, power generation, industrial gases, water distribution and crystals manufacturing. Elizabeth L Sanchez

# BUSINESS

B1

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1230 PM	- Best Student Volunteers
Fashion Show directed by Ariel Lazada	
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4 PM	- Live Auction
6 PM	- VIP Closing Number

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# After debate with Kerry, President Bushwhacked

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor is asking that women be given a day off during menstruation, even for a short period. She was supported by DOLE (who ate pineapple) and at the end of her speech, she was given a standing ovation. Women could ride to work on their menstrual cycles. Congress should address the needs of genitalia who have days when they think of nothing but sex, due to an excess of whoremans.

Disney is trying desperately to start a TV channel in China, which is hardly surprising, as they would have a potential audience of 1.3 billion people. However, the Chinese government is making life difficult for them. They have insisted that Mickey Mouse joins the Communist Party and speaks Mandarin.

We all love our boss at Abacus Securities because he is a nice guy, but this week he let me down. I was supposed to retire in January, on my 75th birthday. I asked whether I could quit at Christmas and get a P1-million silver parachute for early retirement, but he said no, so I will have to continue for another 10 years.

Hopefully, most of you have read the Da Vinci Code, an excellent book. I have written the Leonardo Code, which has certain similarities but a more exciting ending. The hero is named Ronald Langdon and he is a sym-

## MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nalban

bolist. That means he plays the cymbals in a foul harmonic orchestra and clashes with lots of musicians.

One day, he visits the Tate Gallery in London and sees a triptych, which is a painting divided vertically into three parts. The left side shows Moses talking to his staff; the right side depicts Jacob and what Esau. The centerpiece is of the Last Supper. Judas is seen passing a piece of paper to Pontius, who pilots it to the Roman Guard. Under an electron microscope, Judas, an androgynous figure, turns out to be a transvestite named Judy. She betrays Jesus and as this is a suspense story, she hangs herself and says, "The suspense is killing me."

On the piece of paper is an accurate prediction of the French Revolution, World Wars I and II, and even the 9/11 attack on America. It is written in Morse code, binary code and even genetic code. Ronald meets a girl called Sophie, who is a drug dealer, but ends up as the heroine. How these predictions could have been made 2,000 years ago is a

complete mystery. The ending is Titanic because the painting was done by Leonardo DiCaprio.

It is difficult to know what to write about this week. The lawmakers are on holiday until Oct. 25 and after a few days, they will recess for Halloween. Company results for the third quarter ended Sept. 30 will not be announced until November, so we are in a vacuum. However, we have had warnings from Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's that if no tax-raising bills are passed by the year-end, we will probably be downgraded from stable to negative.

This will be a disaster because it will be impossible to borrow abroad except at exorbitant rates so we will have to borrow in the domestic market. This will push interest rates even higher, increase inflation and put even more pressure on the peso, already at its low. Rep. Joey Salceda wrote a comprehensive report outlining which taxes have to be passed this year, next year and in 2007. Congress will probably approve most of it but Senador Recio has threatened to shelve all these proposals. He must not do this because mistakes cannot be rectified. The next month is critical.

In America, Kerry appears to be gaining ground and the result should be close. It will not affect the Philippines very much but it

will impact on the rest of the world. If Bush is reelected, he will no doubt attack North Korea and Iran because they do possess weapons of mass destruction.

The US economy is not doing as well as was expected. GDP in the 3rd quarter is down, the number of new jobs created last month was a big disappointment, the trade deficit of \$54 billion in September was \$3.5 billion higher than in the previous month and the second highest ever recorded. As a result, consumer confidence is waning, the dollar remains weak and the price of oil keeps hitting new highs.

The costs of health care will soon become intolerable as more and more baby boomers reach retirement age and draw pensions. Greenspan wants to increase contributions now and reduce pensions still in the future. It is impossible to see how this can be avoided but no president wants to introduce this, as it will be highly unpopular with the electorate. For financial reasons, the US needs to extricate itself from Iraq as soon as it is possible to do so.

In Europe, the German economy, which is the largest, is struggling and the unemployment rate is 10.6 percent. It is thought that China had reduced its 3rd quarter GDP from 9.6 percent to 8.9 percent and was hoping to reduce it further to 8 percent by the end of the year. Lending restrictions

MR BEARBULL/B6

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## STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Head Office and Branches) As of September 21, 2004

### ASSETS

	P
Cash and Cash Items	966,553,653
Due from Bangko Sentral	2,086,034,551
Due from Other Banks	95,573,522
Inbank Loans Receivable	953,859,056
Trading Account Securities (Net)	5,826,324,578
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)	35,474,699,223
Equity Investments (Net)	2,257,477,471
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	1,416,792,006
Other Assets (Net)	2,846,189,617
Property Owned/Acquired	3,382,314,144
Others	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>P 75,816,173,449</b>

### LIABILITIES

	P
Demand Deposits	12,313,458,039
Savings Deposits	18,344,959,122
Time Deposits	17,202,297,015
Special/Other Deposits	134,115,273
Due to Bangko Sentral	20,682,589
Due to Banks	2,090,313
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	217,337,601
Bills Payable	
BSP Rediscounts/Special Programs	493,742,874
Interbank Borrowings	9,528,023,78
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	285,898,936
Other Liabilities	3,333,209,821
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (incl. Unamortized Premium/Discount)	2,998,784,956
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>P 64,677,500,023</b>

### CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

	P
Capital Stock	4,981,526,239
Surplus	5,615,147,187
Surplus Reserves	143,600,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 10,740,673,426</b>

### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

	P
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 75,816,173,449</b>

### CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

	P
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	
Bills for Collection	1,245,784,117
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	17,008,923,646
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	13,741,068,526
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements Invested in:	7,740,001,864
Government Securities	P 2,987,184,365
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	287,519,981
Loans and Discounts	3,382,598,510
Other Assets	1,102,687,208
Accountabilities:	
Trust and Other Fiduciary	1,817,447,175
Common Trust Funds	2,488,102,602
Investment/Fund Management	3,734,451,867
Other Contingent Accounts	
<b>TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 43,129,001,722</b>

### OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:	
a) Government	527,174,226
b) Banks	
c) Trust Department	900,485,013

### 2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Small Enterprises	Medium Enterprises
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance:	8%
Actual Compliance:	7.72%

### 3. Amount of non-performing loans:

Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio	9.88%
Amount of classified loans and other risk assets	14,481,972,000

### 4. General provision for loan losses:

Specific provision for loan losses	389,057,250
General provision for loan losses	2,471,134,727

### 5. Specific provision for loan losses:

Ratio of equity to total assets	8.21%
Amount of equity to total assets	3,074,975,587

### 6. Return on Equity (ROE):

Ratio of ROE to total assets	7.63%
Amount of ROE to total assets	0.00

### 7. Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio:

Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	0.00
Total loan portfolio	

### 8. Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio:

Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	0.00
Total loan portfolio	

### 9. Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio:

Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	0.00
Total loan portfolio	

### 10. Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio:

Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	0.00
Total loan portfolio	

### 11. Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio:

Ratio of past due ODSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio	0.00

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Coinciding with the Asia regional consultation workshop in Manila from October 27-29, 2004, there will be an open forum discussion sponsored by IFC on October 29 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Westin Philippine Plaza in Manila, to seek feedback on the proposed policy documents. The forum will be open to any interested parties.

Additional details about both IFC's policies and the ongoing consultation process, including regional consultations, can be found at the IFC website at [www.ifc.org/policyreview](http://www.ifc.org/policyreview). To register for the forum please RSVP by noon, Monday, October 25, 2004 to [kjacinto@ifc.org](mailto:kjacinto@ifc.org). Due to space restrictions registration will be on a first come, first served basis.

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# Jollibee Q3 sales up 6% TIGHTENING UNNECESSARY

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FASTFOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. said its net earnings in the third quarter grew 6 percent to P317 million, boosted by growth in local and international sales.

The growth, it said, was tempered by the rising costs of raw materials.

In a statement, Jollibee said sales rose 24.5 percent from July to September to P8.6 billion.

JFC chief finance officer Ysmael Baysa told the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) that sales of all business units in the Philippines posted double-digit growths. Also, its Yonghe King business in China grew by 35 percent.

Profit margins in the domestic business, however, contracted as the increases in the costs of raw materials and utilities outpaced the adjustments of its products' prices.

"The cost of packaging materials, utilities and certain raw materials rose rapidly in August and

September, driven mainly by the increases in the prices of petroleum. We made slight price adjustments on our products and continued pursuing cost improvement on our operations, but they were not sufficient to immediately offset the impact of the cost increases," Baysa said.

He said that the key financial results were being disclosed in advance, for the benefit of the investing public particularly in view of the significant impact of inflation on its corporate earnings.

In the third quarter, system wide sales of Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich and Delifrance in the Philippines posted double-digit growths ranging from 14 percent to 26 percent.

Sales generally grew faster in the Visayas and Mindanao most likely on account of strong output and prices of farm produce, Jollibee said.

System wide sales measure all sales to consumers by both company owned and franchised stores.

By Doris C. Dumao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas may keep its interest rates steady for the rest of the year despite pressures from the skyrocketing oil prices and the series of monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve.

Emerging from a lunch meeting with Monetary Board members, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday told reporters that based on the current environment, an increase in interest rates was still unnecessary and that it might be possible to ward off any monetary policy tightening for the remainder of the year.

"We don't have to follow the US Fed," Buenaventura said. "If it were up to me, I'd like to keep it [interest rate] unchanged until June [next year]."

Buenaventura's six-year term as



BUENAVENTURA

BSP governor ends in July next year

The BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates stood at 6.75 percent and 9 percent, respectively. The rates remained unchanged since July last year.

The BSP chief said domestic interest rates were already adjust-

ing to global interest rates such that any tightening in its key policy rates would just distort the yield curve.

He said the BSP would resort to tightening if there was evidence of a second round of pressures from the rising oil prices. At present, he said there was none.

"Money growth is still slow," he noted.

Even in the United States, Buenaventura added that the impact of the rising gasoline prices had been "manageable."

The BSP has reported moderate but steady growth in domestic liquidity in the past few months, which has been accompanied by improvements in domestic demand.

But Buenaventura admitted that the situation could drastically change later.

The Monetary Board is expected to keep the rates at current lev-

els during its monthly policy rate setting this Thursday, Buenaventura said.

The BSP has conceded that the rising oil prices could push the country's inflation rate beyond the 4 to 5 percent target range for this year and next year. However, it favors non-monetary government intervention policies to curb supply-side pressures, such as energy conservation as well as timely importation and distribution of vital consumer goods.

Monetary policy action was not seen as appropriate in addressing supply-side constraints, as this would do the economy more harm than good.

Under its inflation-targeting approach to monetary management, the BSP may be excused from overshooting its targets if the causes were beyond the influence of monetary policy.

# BIR exceeds collection goal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) has surpassed its collection goal for September, beating its monthly collection target for three months in a row now.

The BIR said in a statement that it collected P33.746 billion in September, exceeding its target of P32 billion by more than 1 percent. The amount was also 14.45 percent higher than the P29 billion collected during the same month last year.

The September figure brought the BIR's collections for the first eight months to P343.848 billion which, however, was 1.56 percent short of its P350-billion target for the period. This was higher than the P376.801 billion collection in the same period last year.

"The bureau attributes this accomplishment to the continuing implementation of several initiatives intended to encourage tax compliance," the BIR said.

## Breaktime

From page B2

Complete with its misguided priorities, plus a huge deficit and all, the 2003 budget once more serves as filling material for the leadership void in both chambers.

At least we just broke a world record for waste recycling.

WHAT kind of a message does such a stupid move send to the whole world? Something is wrong with the government's finances, right? In fact, we are already in a fiscal crisis!

Yet our lawmakers are going for an old budget which created deficits by the hundreds of billions of pesos in the past two years, and that's why we had the crisis.

Are they just in love with that particular budget or what?

But who knows, it may only be because of the massive "pork" tucked into the 2003 budget, which was precisely made in the year just before national elections?

IN BUSINESS, they think that getting those reforms through Congress is all a matter of leadership.

In any system of government, it is the leader who must bug the assembly for whatever the government needs.

The leader does not only bug the assembly, but the leader must also cajole, or threaten if need be, to get things done.

In our case, we only need to solve a crisis, not to mention create some 11 million jobs, lift about 40 million out of poverty, and do something about graft and corruption. If that's not asking too much, I don't know what is.

In business, as the surveys have shown, they probably don't see any of that kind of leadership in the past 110 days. All they got were the results of photo-ops.

## Mr Bearbull

From page B4

have been imposed to slow down the economy, which is growing at an unsustainable rate. In Japan, consumer spending is falling, company profits are down, and full-time workers are being replaced by part-timers. So the Japanese economy is again beginning to sag. Even my banana is sagging. The NIKKEI is 11,100 whereas, at its peak, it was almost 40,000.

Last week, I wrote a non-committal report on MPC and ended by asking whether all the local brokers could be wrong. Well, it appears that they were because a few days later, First Pacific announced that it was selling 5 percent of MPC to rehabilitate Nenanco, which was listing in port rather badly, and has since been de-listed. The rest of the money was to provide MPC with working capital.

Credit Lyonnais sold the remaining 305 million shares in the first 53 minutes next morning and pushed the shares down to 0.35. Thereafter, it recovered to 0.52 but subsequently suc-

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#### STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Head Office and Branches) As of SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

##### ASSETS

	P
Cash and Cash Items	1,414,580,683
Due from Bangko Sentral	2,281,361,779
Due from Other Banks	627,201,954
Interbank, Loans Receivable	8,116,706,187
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)	12,166,931,488
Investment Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	33,366,291,416
Loans, Discounts & Advances, Net	41,983,251,521
Equity Investments (Net)	1,000,000
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	3,069,305,244
Other Assets (Net); Property Owned/Acquired	4,849,850,787
Others	3,842,758,190
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>P 111,964,820,978</b>

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Bank and Financial Subsidiaries & Affiliates) As of SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

##### ASSETS

	P
Cash and Cash Items	1,421,627,063
Due from Bangko Sentral	2,281,361,779
Due from Other Banks	627,201,954
Interbank, Loans Receivable	8,116,706,187
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)	12,166,931,488
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	33,473,356,626
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	44,988,531
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	3,100,551,879
Other Assets (Net); Property Owned/Acquired	4,849,850,787
Others	3,870,005,742
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>P 112,558,285,855</b>

##### LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

	P
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	11,787,311,783
Savings Deposits	28,203,587,008
Time Deposits	36,814,054,257
Special/Other Deposits	85,047,457
Due to Bangko Sentral	25,928,853
Due to Banks	3,394,785
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	143,990,539
Bills Payable	6,020,221,022
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	2,851,32,594
Other Liabilities	3,269,728,769
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>P 92,364,568,447</b>

	P
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	4,325,755,826
Surplus	13,119,816,865
Surplus Reserves	327,556,437
Other Capital Accounts	1,882,803,304
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 18,326,085,567</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 111,964,820,978</b>

##### CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

	P
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	2,073,640,185
Bills for Collection	253,103,041
Spot/Futures Exchange Sold	6,096,357,719
Spot/Futures Exchange Bought	25,302,852
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	36,888,886,512
Invested In:	
Government Securities	P 24,077,302,493
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	1,515,857,433
Loans and Discounts	2,479,068,457
Other Assets	8,594,597,129
Accountabilities:	
Trust and Other Fiduciary Common Trust Funds	25,797,758,405
Investment Fund Management	7,086,347,565
Other contingent accounts	3,782,780,122
<b>TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>P 50,441,157,574</b>

##### OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:  
A) Government  
B) Banks  
C) Trust Department
2. Deposits with Natura Capital Corp.  
Principled Ratio of Compliance: 6% For Small Ent.  
Adult & Compliance: 11.58%
3. Amount of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio: 13.41%
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total risk assets: 13.30%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets: 19,055,877,247
6. General provision for loan losses: 2,409,942,866
7. Specific provision for loan losses: 4,558,277,703
8. Return on Equity: 14.69%
9. DOSRI loan advances: 4.81%
10. Ratio to total loan portfolio: 107,142,537
11. Post due DOSRI loans/advances: 0.18%
12. Ratio to total loan portfolio: 107,1

# Peso may strengthen vs dollar in '05, says BSP

*Record oil price surge takes its toll on Asian stocks*

SINGAPORE—Asian share markets on Monday fell after oil hit a record above \$55 a barrel.

US light crude marched to a record \$55.33 a barrel, a gain of 70 percent this year, on worries over thin stocks of heating fuel ahead of the high-demand northern hemisphere winter.

Japan's Nikkei stock average extended losses into a seventh straight session, ending down 0.2 percent at 10,965.62 as worries over the impact of high energy costs on corporate profits offset bargain hunting in some exporters.

"There is a vague sense of fear over the outlook for stock markets around the globe," said Masaharu Sakudo at Tachibana Securities. "One of several things to worry about is a seemingly unstoppable rally in oil prices."

An MSCI index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan had slipped 0.3 percent by 0615 GMT, weighed down by a 0.8 percent fall in its technology index.

Taiwan's main index closed at a six-week low, led by a 2.7 percent drop in display screen maker AU Optronics and a 0.7 percent fall in contract chip maker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Shares dropped between 0.3 and 0.8 percent in Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

South Korea was the only bright spot among major regional share indexes, rising 0.75 percent as gains in banking stocks helped offset a one-percent drop in



A WORKER at General Motors' German unit, Adam Opel AG, stands in front of the Opel car factory in Bochum, Germany to protest plans to axe up to 12,000 jobs. As US light crude hit a record \$55.33 a barrel, the world's largest car maker on Thursday said it intended to cut a fifth of its 63,000-strong European workforce in the next two years.

chip giant Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.

The dollar was at 109.22 yen at 0620 GMT compared with 109.33 in late trade on Friday in New York, where it fell to a one-and-a-half month low of 108.80.

Global shares saw volatile trade last week amid soaring oil prices and a

mixed bag of earnings.

The focus this week will be oil and a flood of US earnings from blue-chip companies including Microsoft Corp., Caterpillar Inc., and Amazon.com Inc.

Investors are also awaiting US consumer price data on Tuesday, Japanese

trade figures on Thursday and third-quarter GDP figures from China Friday.

Fed Chief Alan Greenspan, easing fears about the surge in oil prices, last Friday predicted that soaring energy prices would not crimp economic growth as they had done in the 1970s.

REUTERS

shares dropped between 0.3 and 0.8 percent in Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

South Korea was the only bright spot among major regional share indexes, rising 0.75 percent as gains in banking stocks helped offset a one-percent drop in

because of the slower turnaround time for customs clearance.

"The Act reverts customs clearance work back to manual processing, which is costly and delays cycle time and brings back inefficiency to the industry," Purisima quoted the JCCI as saying. "(Various) industries and sectors are objecting to (Section 27) that requires the hiring of the services of a professional customs broker in transacting export papers with the Bureau of Customs."

The provision automatically strips exporters and small and medium enterprises the right to transact and process their own papers with the BoC and sign their own export documents, he added.

"Customs brokers are agents by nature," Purisima said. The exporters are principals and should not be disallowed to prepare and personally process their own export documents because these things are not complicated."

By Doris C. Dumla

THE BANCO Sentral ng Pilipinas has come up with a projection that the peso could strengthen to levels below 50 against the US dollar by next year once the government has made significant progress in boosting its sagging fiscal position.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who believes the peso was "undervalued" at current levels, yesterday told reporters the local currency would start trading below 50:\$1 once "we're well on our way to overcoming the fiscal crisis."

After hugging the record low level of 56.45 to the dollar for recent days, the peso slightly improved yesterday to close at 56.41 from Friday's finish of 56.425.

"The remittances are coming in and corporate demand has been basically satisfied," Buenaventura said. "This quarter it should improve unless it is derailed by a failure of expectations. The market is expecting that Congress would pass some legislative (tax) measures."

Currency traders said the biggest factor holding the peso at present was the skyrocketing price of crude oil in the global market.

For his part, Buenaventura believes the government's fiscal woes are also to blame for the peso's undervaluation.

"We've built up that expectation that we'll pass something," he said. "But if there's a setback, then there will be a failure of expectations."

By next year, Buenaventura said the local currency should benefit from stronger fiscal reforms through legislative and administrative measures.

The BSP chief said the market would like to see the resolution of the debt-strapped power sector.

"They have to put Napocor (National Power Corp.) back on the black," he said.

At present, the market is wary of possible credit rating downgrade by Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

A team from the European credit rating agency Fitch Ratings, which has given the country 18 months to pass crucial fiscal reforms, is in town to evaluate the country's progress.

US-based Moody's Investor Service is likewise set to visit the country next month. This agency is expected to again downgrade the Philippines' sovereign credit unless fresh revenue-boosting measures are passed by Congress by the time its review team arrives.

## House urged to amend Customs Brokers Act

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EXPORT Development Council and various business chambers yesterday called on Congress to change some of the provisions of the Customs Brokers Act of 2004, which they said pushed up the cost of doing business in the country and made local industries less competitive.

The measure, also known as Republic Act No. 9280, was signed into law

last March 30. It prescribes the creation of a Professional Regulatory Board for Customs Brokers, regulates the practice of customs brokerage in the country, and appropriates funds for its implementation.

According to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, many local exporters, among them members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, believe that the law would result in an increase in the cost of trade

because of the slower turnaround time for customs clearance.

"The Act reverts customs clearance work back to manual processing, which is costly and delays cycle time and brings back inefficiency to the industry," Purisima quoted the JCCI as saying. "(Various) industries and sectors are objecting to (Section 27) that requires the hiring of the services of a professional customs broker in transacting export papers with the Bureau of Customs."

The provision automatically strips exporters and small and medium enterprises the right to transact and process their own papers with the BoC and sign their own export documents, he added.

"Customs brokers are agents by nature," Purisima said. The exporters are principals and should not be disallowed to prepare and personally process their own export documents because these things are not complicated."

## "PHILIPPINE ADVERTISING RELOADED: CREATE, CONNECT, CONVERT – The 2004 ASAP CONFERENCE"

October 19 & 20, 2004

Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila

### PROGRAMME

DAY 1 – October 19, 2004 (Tuesday)

AM Registration  
Opening of Exhibits  
Invocation  
National Anthem  
Keynote Address  
Secretary Cerge M. Remonde  
Opening – "Philippine Advertising Reloaded: Create, Connect, Convert – The 2004 ASAP Conference"  
Welcome Remarks  
Mr. Khalil O. Khodr, Jr.

#### Forum Proper

Global Advertising Trends and Directions  
Ms. Celine Madamba  
The Making of a TV Commercial Project  
Mr. Mark Meily  
Breakthrough in Commercial Photography Project  
Mr. Mark Floro  
Mr. Raymund Isaac

PM Mobile and Wireless Advertising  
Ms. Maricel Pangilinan-Arenas  
Below the Line Advertising: Challenges and Corporate Strategies  
Mr. Alvin M. Carranza  
Ms. Venus R. Navalta  
Mr. Alvin So

DAY 2 – October 20, 2004 (Wednesday)

AM Intellectual Property Rights (panel discussion)  
Mr. Dodie C. Lucas – Moderator  
Atty. Teddy Kalaw, IV  
Mr. John J. Lesaca  
Mr. Rolando B. Saquilabon  
The Making of My Favourite Ad Jingle  
Mr. Vic Icasas  
Mr. Brian Cua  
Amazing World of Animation and Special Effects  
Mr. Tim Bennett  
Franklin M. Velarde, M.D.  
Mr. Peter Lopez  
Ms. Marlyn Montano  
Alternative Channel: Electronic Media and Web Advertising  
Mr. Mon Lizardo  
Digital ad delivery for newspapers and magazines  
Mr. Dennis Valdes

Session Chairman / Master of Ceremonies

Mr. Egay Navalta Ms. Lindy Magnaye Mr. Mitch Amurao

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

# People, Events & Products

## Boosting your baby's development

A CHILD'S development is determined by three factors: Genes, environmental stimulation, and nutrition. "Of the three, nutrition plays a very important role," says Dr. Miguel Noche, Jr., pediatrician and consultant of Abbott Laboratories. "Because it can further boost a child's growth, especially where brain development is concerned."

Dr. Noche's statement has been proven in several clinical studies done abroad. Research has revealed that babies with poor genes but have been given the proper nutrition and environmental stimulation can grow up with the same intelligence quotient as babies who inherited good genes from their parents.

"Proper nutrition and environmental stimulation should be given during the child's first two years of life - the period which is highly crucial to a baby's brain and visual development," he said.

It is for this scientific finding that Abbott Laboratories recently launched the latest breakthrough in

nutrition, the EyeQ Nutrition System. With a premise that "the eye is the portal to the brain," this nutrition system highlights the importance of essential nutrients Taurine, the fatty acids AA and DHA, together with a host of important macro and micro nutrients that are crucial to the development - not only of the baby's brain, but of the eyes as well, particularly the retina.

While this kind of nutrition system is similar to other systems used in milk formulas all over the globe, the EyeQ Nutrition System still has an edge above the others, said Dr. Noche. For one, the amount and ratio of nutrients present in Abbott's milk formulas differ from others. More importantly, the EyeQ Nutrition System is backed by about seven clinical studies, each of which has proven that the performance of the EyeQ Nutrition System is highly similar to the nutritional performance of breast milk,

he stressed. "We pediatricians actually teach

mothers about proper breastfeeding and its benefits. What Abbott aims to achieve is to develop a milk formula with high nutritive value that is close to breast milk - intended for moms who can't breast feed their babies for one reason or another," he said.

The nutrients given importance in Abbott's EyeQ Nutrition System are the fatty acids arachidonic acid (AA) and docosahexaenoic (DHA) for visual and mental development and taurine for mature brain stem auditory-evoked responses. Others include vitamins and minerals like iron, choline, zinc, selenium, iodine, and folic acid among others.

Breastfeeding remains the gold standard in infant nutrition. But in cases when moms cannot breastfeed their babies, Abbott has developed a scientifically proven solution: the EyeQ Nutrition System. "We have backed our nutrition system with adequate research," says Dr. Noche. "If only to aid moms in giving the best nutrition to their babies."



KAZAKHSTAN CONFERENCE ON ELECTION SYSTEM

Benjamin Abalos (left), Chair of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has recently been invited as guest of honor and speaker during the International Scientific and Practical Conference 'Development of Election System' devoted to Russia's Year In Kazakhstan held last Aug. 25 to 26 at the City of Almaty. Shown with him are Zagipa Ballyba-

va, Chair of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan (second from left); Vashchryakov Alexander Albertovich of the Russian Federation and delegate Edward Ferreira, Consul General a.i.h. of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Philippines, who accompanied Chair Abalos to the international conference.



ADBOARD ATTENDS 39TH INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION WORLD CONGRESS

AdBoard recently attended the 39th International Advertising Association World Congress held on Sept. 7 to 10 in Beijing, China. Shown in photo are (from left) Jose Howard of Airline Marketing Phils.; Tessie Celestino-Howard, IBA president; Florian Bacani of Celestial Media Services; Rose Ba-

cani of Celestial Media Services; Elvira Arceo of R.S.A. Marketing; Oscar T. Valenzuela, AdBoard executive director; Alvin Manasca, AdBoard vice chair; Raul Alvarez, AdBoard treasurer; Rey Huog, KBP executive director; Rey Anthony David of Great Wall Advertising and Jose Sy, CAAP president.



LAST CALL BARTENDING CHALLENGE, KOLEHIYALA FLAIR SHOWDOWN

Congratulations to the winners of the recently concluded Last Call Bartending Challenge and Kolehiyala Flair Showdown last Sept. 25, at Almall, Araneta Center. Shown (from left): Richie Cruz (EP), Kolehiyala 3rd placer Venelyn Andaya (University of Sto. Tomas), 2nd placer Gloria Ballesteros (College of St. Benilde), 1st placer Mabel April (Mariners

Polytechnic College), Last Call 2nd placer Christian Ducusin (NCBA-Fairview), 3rd placer Janzell Palbalca (Lyceum Balanga) and 1st placer Mel Padua (Faithma College). This UPPIA and Pinyebender production was presented by Nescafe Ico, Nestea Lite, and Nestle Lemonade. Log on to [http://www.geocities.com/blue.blazer\\_2004](http://www.geocities.com/blue.blazer_2004) for more info.

### 'Looking Clips'

DONESIO Gonzales presents "Looking Back", a retrospective of his works from 1995 to 1998 on view from Oct. 5 to Nov.

5 at Food and Art Gallerie. The exhibit will be showcasing never before exhibited works from the beginning of his career. This only at Food & Art Gallery, 12/F GT Tower Int'l., Ayala Ave cor. HV dela Costa St., Makati City. Gallery hours are from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Mondays to Fridays and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. For inquiries, call 752-5678.

### 'LG at the City' promo

INDUCE the movie fan in you with LG Electronics and Video City's "LG at the City" promo running until Feb. 28 of next year. The promo is open to all customers who purchase any LG DVD player, mini component, and DVD home theater from all participating outlets. Customers will be issued an LG at the City card that entitles them to free rentals of up to 10 DVDs or 20 VCDs on any Video City branch nationwide. For info, call the LG Customer Information Center at (02) 640-2525.

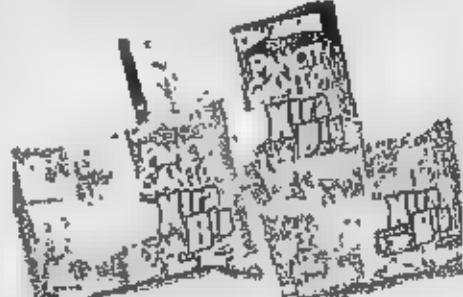
### Abenson Avant opens

ABENSON Avant promises a new concept in lifestyle entertainment. In its first store at the posh Greenbelt 4 in Ayala Center Makati, which recently opened this month, it showcases the most innovative electronics, entertainment and home appliances. The store features five demonstration areas where customers can "test drive" a variety of devices and their seamless interaction with digital entertainment content. These areas include a digital imaging "shooting gallery" that has a complete range of digital still cameras, camcorders and photo printers. Avant will also carry the country's widest line of top brands in electronics, audio video and home appliances all at great value.

### Product FILES

#### Okkk Payless Xtra Big

TRY the new Okkk Payless Pancit Canton Xtra Big. Unlike regular sized pancit cantons, Payless' newest product features a larger serving to satisfy anyone's appetite. It offers three delicious flavors - Original, Kalamansi and Chilimansi flavor. Payless Pancit Canton Xtra Big is also Okkusansya because it's fortified with 11 more vitamins and minerals. So switch to the pancit canton with the right taste and the right size at the right price.



### MEGAWORLD GIVES TO JUBILEE HOMES FOR THE POOR



Megaworld Foundation, the corporate giving arm of property giant Megaworld Corporation, extended financial support to Jubilee Homes for the Poor, a joint project of the Council of the Lady of the Philippines and the Philippine Solidarity Foundation, which aims to alleviate homelessness by offering low-cost yet quality housing for the indigent. Aside from building homes for beneficiary families, Jubilee Homes for the Poor provides them with a means of livelihood and trains them in primary health and sanitation and environmental care. Presenting the donation to Antonio Adorable Jr. (left) of Jubilee Homes for the Poor is Megaworld business development manager Rene Pizas.



### SANDARA IS CONFIDENT ACTIVE ENDORSE

Globe Noble International Corp. has chosen Sandara Park as its new celebrity endorser for their Confident Active Feminine Napkin line. Confident Napkin boasts of the so slim yet super absorbent pad just perfect for the girl on the go. It has uniquely positioned dual side cuff barrier to greatly restrain side leaks and has a super soft

dry cover for the added comfort and protection. Confident also has the Active Need To Nothing Pantliners that guarantees all day freshness. Confident Active is available in stores nationwide. Shown are (from left) Edwin Ong, managing director of Global Noble International Corp.; Sandara and Jerry Telan of Talent Center.

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**  
Cristaline Center, 409 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City  
Telephone 637-9999 [www.philhealth.gov.ph](http://www.philhealth.gov.ph)

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

**BIDDING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF REMITTANCE FORMS (MI-5)**  
**FOR THE USE OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT**  
No. 2004-Q12.g

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) wishes to invite duly licensed printers, manufacturers or suppliers for the procurement of MI-5 Remittance Forms for the use of the Individually Paying Members with the following specifications:

**MI-5 Remittance Forms for the Individually Paying Members**

QUANTITY	57,000 pads (11,400,000 sheets, 50 sets per pad @ 4 copies per set)
SIZE	Width 7 inches x Length 5 inches
MATERIAL	Imported Carbon-less Paper Colored on Top side only (Impression must be clear up to the last ply) White Carbon-less paper Yellow Carbon-less paper Green Carbon-less paper Pink Carbon-less paper Wrapping Paper Cover Clip Board
PROCESS	Offset printing / Red Gum Padded Back to back printing on all copies
Serial Numbers	9 Digits – All Numeric (Crash Numbering) 57,000 pads (105386001-106236000)
Packaging	50 pads per corrugated box Serial Numbers must be posted on two (2) opposite sides of the box.

The approved budget for the contract for the MI-5 forms is Php4,000,000.00 coming from C.O.B. 2004.

Bid documents can be obtained from October 19-28, 2004, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office, Room 1804 18th floor, PHILHEALTH, Cristaline Center, #709 Shaw Blvd., Ortigas, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php3,000.00.

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 29, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office.

Submission of bids will be on November 12, 2004 on or before 12:00 noon (during office hours) at the office of the BAC Secretariat (Room 1804). Opening of Bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same date and venue. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804 (Office of the BAC Secretariat). Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

(Sgd.) OCTAVINO Q. ESGUERRA  
Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary  
BAC Chairman for Goods and Services

PDQ-Oct. 18 & 28, 2004

**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**  
**ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**  
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City  
Telefax Nr 421-2327 911-6001 Loc. 6592  
Email: pdq@info.com

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 8,685 pcs Magazine Assy for M16 (20 rounds Cap) Aluminum and 6,913 pcs Magazine Assy for M10 (30 rounds Cap) Aluminum with an approved budget of P5,910,000.00 chargeable against CY 2004 Weapons Operating Budget.

Likewise, the AFP invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 1,000 pcs Fuze Assy for Ctg 80/81mm HE with an approved budget of P2,500,000.00 chargeable against CY 2004 Ammunition Operating Budget.

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said items and who have manufacturing capability shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting October 19, 2004 until November 18, 2004 during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the BAC Secretariat Office, AFP Logistics Command, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Pesos (P5,810.00) for the magazine Assy and Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) for the Fuze Assy. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Representatives are required to present a Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder before issuance of the bid documents and all other transactions thereto.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on the following dates:

Nomenclature	Date/Place
Magazine Assy for M16 (20 & 30 rds Cap) Alum	November 12, 2004 at 8:00 AM at the Sillid Panday Pira, OJ9, UF Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Fuze Assy for Ctg 80/81mm HE	November 12, 2004 at 1:00 PM at the Sillid Panday Pira, OJ9, UF Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Bidders who have inquiries must communicate to writing to the BAC Secretariat three (3) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadlines for submission of bid documents are as follows:

Nomenclature	Date/Place
Magazine Assy for M16 (20 & 30 rds Cap) Alum	November 24, 2004 at 8:00 AM at the Sillid Panday Pira, OJ9, UF Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Fuze Assy for Ctg 80/81mm HE	November 24, 2004 at 1:00 PM at the Sillid Panday Pira, OJ9, UF Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

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Fuze Assy for Ctg 80/81mm HE	November 24, 2004 at 1:00 PM at the Sillid Panday Pira, OJ9, UF Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids pursuant to RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO D. RIVERA  
MGEN  
Chairman

PDQ-Oct. 18 & 28, 2004

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAYAO, MAKATI CITY  
Bldg. 8425 (Office) ☎ 8978000 Ext. 1001 Fax 897-8425  
G/F ALEXANDER BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY  
Bldg. 14261 ☎ 8-1320 ☎ 8-1401 Fax 8925578  
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY  
Bldg. 912 Rm. 1 ☎ 8-1320 ☎ 8-1320 Fax 912-4011  
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY  
Bldg. 6102 ☎ 8-673354 ☎ 8-673366 Fax 6350120  
G/F TOWER BLDG., 16 B.T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA  
Bldg. 527-542 ☎ 8-224466 ☎ 8-278357 Fax 5260213  
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY  
Bldg. 8414 ☎ 8-505465 ☎ 8-505465 Fax 8506445  
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Sundays 12:00 noon  
Day before publication every Thursday

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION  
Dillman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF  
ONE-YEAR WASTE OIL GENERATION  
FOR EMB-DENR ACCREDITED WASTE TREATERS ONLY

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: October 27, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Building-1, NPC Head Office Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Dillman, Quezon City

This public bidding is for the sale of one-year waste oil generation from the following:

ITEM	NPC THERMAL POWER PLANT AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
1	PANAY DIESEL, POWER PLANT-1 BRGY TABUGON, DINGLE, ILOIO PROVINCE	P 4.40
2	BOHOL DIESEL POWER PLANT DAMPAS, TAGBILARAN CITY (BOHOL ISLAND)	P 4.40
3	NAGA POWER PLANT COMPLEX COLON, NAGA, CEBU PROVINCE	P 4.40
4	BATAAN COMBINED-CYCLE POWER PLANT BRGY LLZ, JIMAY, BATAAN PROVINCE	P 4.40

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO PHP 120,000.00
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 OR G.NAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY
3. VALID ACCREDITATION FROM EMB-DENR FOR TREATMENT/ STORAGE/DISPOSAL (TSD) FACILITY AND FOR THE WASTE TRANSPORTER, INCLUDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PERMIT TO TRANSPORT WASTE MANIFEST FORM AND CERTIFICATE OF TREATMENT ALL ACKNOWLEDGED BY EMB-DENR

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding must present the original accreditation from EMB-DENR and may secure the official bid forms at P1,000.00/lot from Mr. Samuel V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Ground Floor Building-1, NPC Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Dillman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid forms is 4:30 PM, October 26, 2004.

For the Materials Management Department  
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.  
OIC, MMD

(DPR Oct. 17, 10 & 19, 2004)



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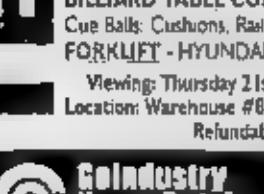
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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell thru public auction FOUR (4) UNITS, 1995 VOLVO SEDAN 850 GLE 2.5 SERVICEABLE MOTOR VEHICLE located at BSP Motorpool and Sports Complex, P. Casal Street, Quiapo, Manila thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 A.M. on 29 October 2004 at Room MP-2C, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Motorpool and Sports Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

Interested parties may inspect the aforesaid items at their locations before the bidding date.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer c/o Ms. Crisanta F. Reyes, Administrative Services Department, Room 109, Ground Floor, 5-Storey Building, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila. Telephone No. 525-8786.

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10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

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P245 per column centimeter  
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## DEADLINE

for reservations / cancellations / corrections  
Monday to Sunday  
12:00 noon  
Day before publication

# OBITUARIES



**Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr.**  
and the  
**Members of the House of Representatives**

mourn the demise of a distinguished colleague

# HON. BENJAMIN A. CRUZ

Party-list Representative, BUTIL, 11th, 12th, 13th Congress  
1998 - 2004

on October 14, 2004 at the age of 70.

His remains will be brought to the Plenary Hall, House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, from Baliuag, Bulacan for a Requiem Mass and Necrological Services at 10:00 a.m. today, October 19, 2004.

After the Requiem Mass and Necrological Services at the House of Representatives, his remains will be brought back to the family residence in Barangay Concepcion, Baliuag, Bulacan.

Interment will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20, 2004, at the Gateway to Heaven Cemetery, Baliuag, Bulacan.

We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

## ROLANDO PASAGUI SICAT

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord  
on October 16, 2004 at the age of 70.*

His bereaved wife CONSUELO, mother PILAR, children, children-in-law, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels at Sucat, Parañaque.

Cremation will be held on October 21, 2004 after the Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m.

## Memories

*"Memory is a way of holding onto the persons you love,  
the person you are, the love ones you never want to lose."*

The INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS brings forth *Memories* – a tabloid-sized supplement to be published on October 29, 2004 in time for the remembrance of our beloved loved ones.

This supplement will be dedicated to pre-need plans, funeral homes, memorial parks and other product/services related to death care. This endeavor will give you a chance to showcase your product lines and the attributes that your services offer.

AD SIZE	RATES
FULL PAGE	54,862.50
HALF PAGE	27,431.25
1/4 PAGE	13,715.63
1/8 PAGE	6,857.81

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## REMEDIOS "MEDIONG" H. YAP

of Bantayan, Cebu and Virginia, USA

*Peacefully joined our Lord, her loving husband, Neding and her son, Bodie on October 16, 2004 at the age of 83.*

Her children Malen, Pabs, Jay, Jon, Peggy and Jackie request our relatives and friends to pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains were cremated on October 16 and interment took place on October 17, 2004 at the Santuario de San Antonio Ossuary.

Novena masses will be from October 18 - 25, 2004 at St. Andrews Parish, Belair Village, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# OBITUARIES



So dearly loved...  
So fondly remembered...  
So truly missed.



In memory of a good husband, a loving father,  
a dedicated friend and an aspiring leader...

## ATTY. ISABELITO HUERTO OJEDA

On the Fourth Anniversary of his rebirth to eternal life  
on October 20, 2004.

His wife Sully K. Litonjun; his children Ginn, Gerard, Isbelita and Susana Grace request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches tomorrow, October 20, 2004.

Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning	7:00 AM
Christ the King, E. Rodriguez	6:30 AM
Mount Carmel, New Manila	7:00 AM
Quinto Church, Manila	7:00 AM
San Agustin Church, Intramuros	7:00 AM
Immaculate Conception, Cubao	7:00 AM
Sta. Quiteria Church, Baesa, Caloocan City	6:00 AM
Nativity of Our Lady Parish, IVS, Marikina	6:00 PM
San Jose Munggagawa, Taltong, Marikina	6:00 PM
San Roque Church, Mandaluyong	7:00 AM

So Lovingly Remembered  
On his 9th Death Anniversary

## RAMON R. ANGELES, MD

Died October 19, 1995

Let us keep his memory alive and offer prayers  
for his eternal peace and happiness in our Lord.

Mass will be said in his memory at the  
Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Quezon City  
on October 19 at 7 am.

**Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

Matthew 10:39

"For God so loved the World, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

—John 3:16

## ATTY. LEO (CALOY) C. MEDIALDEA, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator  
on October 16, 2004 at the age of 50.

His loving wife Efie; dear daughter MJ; father Leo (†); mother Fe, brother Bingpong and Betty; sister Mia and Cris; sister Indit and Ellery; nephews LJ, John-John, Bujoy, Paolo and CJ; relatives-in-law; aunties, uncles, cousins and other relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park on October 21, 2004 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Corito Kaimo



On this her birthday, we lovingly remember her. Her crisp laughter that rang of Life, her smile that blew away the cares of the day and her joy that blessed all those around her. How we miss you, FM

## Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

## Teodora Maglalang vda. de Tetangco

who passed away on 4 October 2004

wish to thank all those who offered prayers and masses, sent flowers, extended assistance and condoled with us during a most trying moment.

We miss her quiet gentle presence and constant care, yet find comfort in the thought that she is now happily reunited with Tata in the loving embrace of our Almighty Father.

## HON. ENRIQUE "TKING" DE CASTRO ASUNCION, SR.

Mayor of Silang Cavite (1956 - 1971)

Peacefully joined his Creator  
on October 17, 2004 at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife Racquel; children Boc & Normita, Boy & Deling, Totoy & Evelyn, Edith & Boyet, Aboy & Flora, Bobot & Sheila, Eric & Steve, Jing & Frank, Isay & Al, Evie & Jessie & grandchildren; brothers Celso & Ernesto; sisters Agustina, Virginia, Ligaya and Josefina request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 325 J. Rizal St., Silang, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 24, 2004 at 12:00 noon at the Himalayan Paraiso, Silang, Cavite.



Always caring...

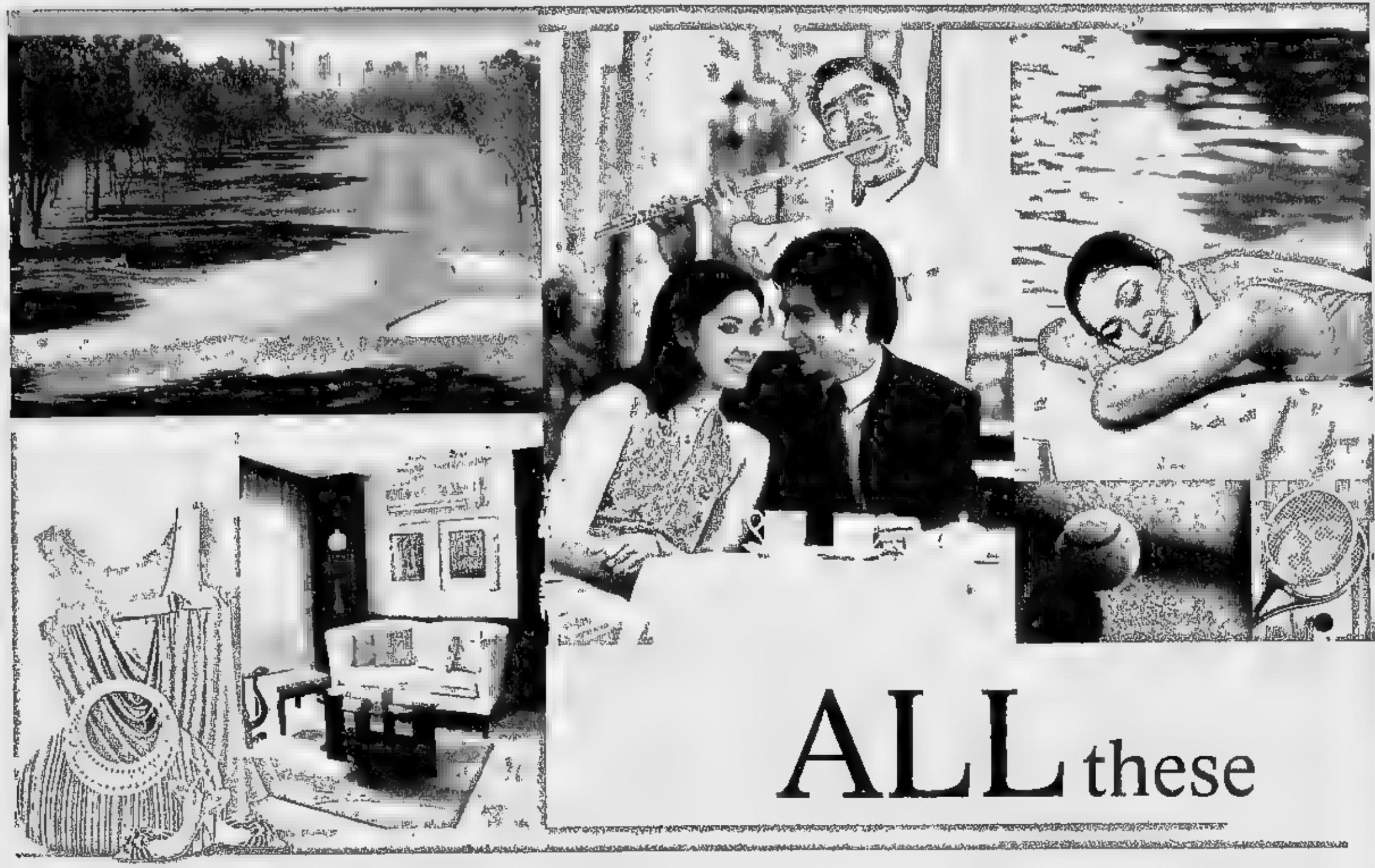
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# LIFE STYLE

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or email us at pr\_lifestyle@inqfranc.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

## Crazy chocolate cravings

Part One

**W**Omen are notorious for using food to relieve stress. Food has been called the good girl's drug. While some women may abuse alcohol and drugs to cope with stress, most women turn to food.

But women rarely crave meat or chicharon. Cravings are almost always for chocolate, cake and cookies.

Here are some possible reasons for chocolate cravings:

I eat anything as long as it is chocolate.

Biological psychologist Marcia Pelchat defines food craving as "a very intense desire to eat a particular food, strong enough that you may go out of your way to get it."

She says there is a difference between hunger and craving. Any food will quiet a growling stomach.

**WELL AND GOOD**



Tina Juan

ach, but a craving is usually only satisfied with a specific type of food.

For example, a craving for pizza cannot be satisfied with spaghetti. Often, not just any pizza will do.

Research in Canada and the United States shows that chocolate is the No. 1 craved for food. Pizza is a close second. Pelchat notes that chocolate and pizza have three things in common: They are highly palatable, very aromatic and flavorful.

No Chocoholics Anonymous

because no one wants to quit.

Many women swear they are addicted to chocolate. But liking chocolate is not considered a real addiction because the "user" does not develop a tolerance (needing more and more chocolate to satisfy a craving) nor experiences physical withdrawal symptoms.

And, although eating chocolate can induce feelings of euphoria, you have to eat a couple of pounds of chocolate to get the same effect as smoking a joint of marijuana.

I'm going on a starvation diet.

Researchers noted that people who had just started a diet had more cravings than long-term dieters. Pelchat explains that long-term dieters may be following a "sensible" diet that is rich in variety and, thus, are less prone to cravings.

On the other hand, short-term dieters may have a more rigid, monotonous diet forbidding many kinds of food. Cravings could be triggered by boredom or could be an "emotional response" to feelings of deprivation. Just knowing you can't have a certain food could make you crave for it.

God sends no stress that prayer and chocolate cannot handle!

Psychologist Isaac Greenberg of Harvard Medical School says food may act as an "efficient relaxant." Digesting food switches off a part of the nervous system that is responsible for making you tense.

When we are tense or anxious, we tend to crave "comfort food" or food our parents used to give us when we were feeling bad.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

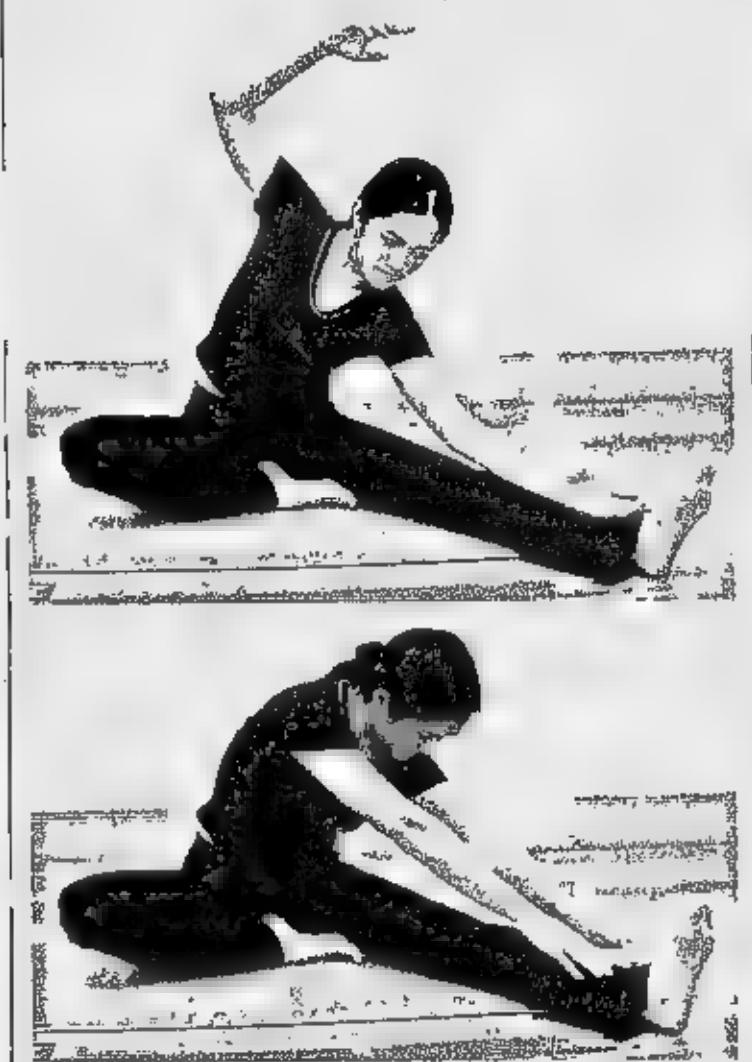


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The drinks pictured above are for the health-conscious. Low calorie, and like this ad, completely sugar free.

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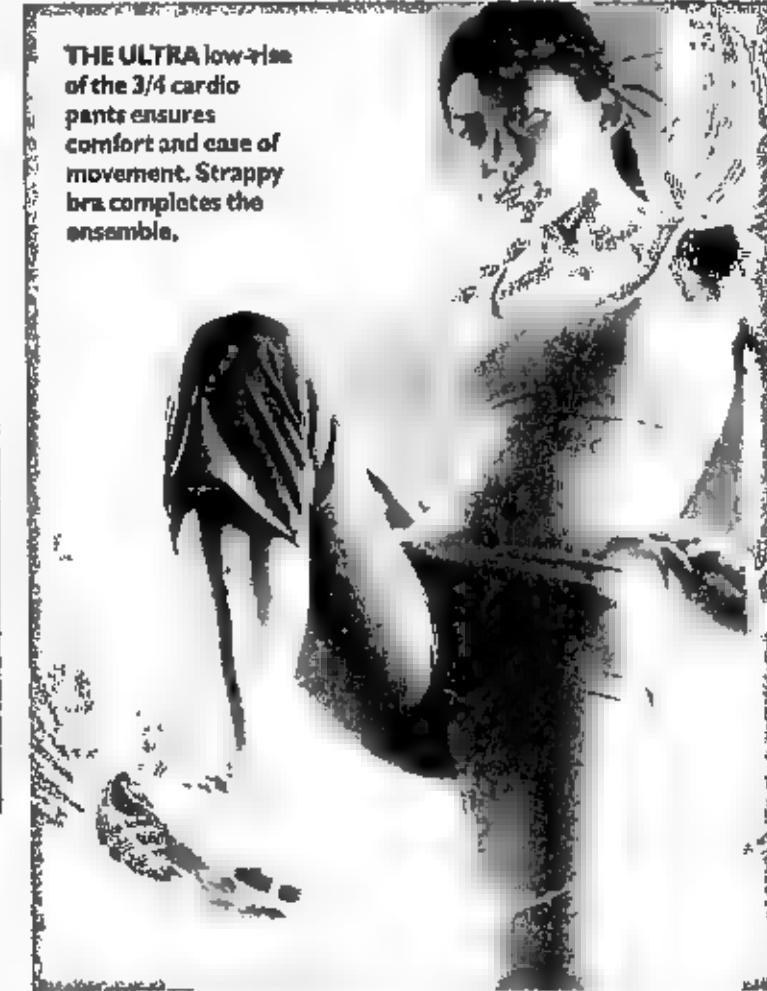
THIS yoga-inspired exercise stretches the waist, inner thighs, hamstrings (back of the thighs) and buttocks.

#### Equipment: Exercise mat Exercise technique:

1. Sit in a half straddle with one leg straight and the other bent. Flex your foot and tighten up the muscles in the front of your thigh.
2. Bend sideways.
3. Then carefully turn toward your leg with both arms reaching forward.
4. And, finally, walk your hands on the floor and reach forward in front of your body.
5. Slowly return to the starting position.

Performance tips:

- One breath means breathing in and breathing out. Hold each position for three to five breaths.



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## Cardio and the aura of good health

THIS HOLIDAY season, Nike unleashes the "Fuel Your Aura" campaign, which supports the new apparel, footwear and equipment collection from Nike Women.

According to Rely San Agustin, Nike's Marketing Communication's executive, "There is a powerful beauty that comes from cardio exercise. A kind of radiance that exudes confidence. Running, boxing, stretching, climbing, dancing—these are just some of the activities that fuel your aura."

Nike Women offers the following performance products to support your cardio exercises this holiday season:

- Apparel: Bold-colored apparel (with colors like Volt and Majesty) specifically engineered for high-impact cardio movements with a better support system and ventilation.

- Footwear: New shoes created specifically for the woman and her cardio activities: Air Max Treadmill Plus, designed for treadmill running; Air Max Brilliance, designed for outdoor running, Air Spin Gym, designed for spinning classes.

• Equipment: Stylish and functional gym bags, watches and gym equipment to suit a woman's every cardio mood.

Check out the new Nike Women Holiday 2004 collection at Nike Park, Galleria 4, Greenbelt 3, Robinsons Ermita, SM Manila, Podium, Eastwood, Southmall, Bacolod, Cebu, Nike Athletic Club, Nike Sports Center, Nike Women Greenbelt, Galleria, Nike Stadium ATC, Galleria, Megamall, SM North EDSA, Rockwell, Shangrila and Nike Zoo.

Visit nikewomen.com.ph. The site champions the benefits of cardiovascular exercise. While you're in the site, nominate your female family members, friends or colleagues in the site's Honor Beauty section, which celebrates specific women who lead healthy, empowered lives—the women who radiate strong, positive aura. Simply fill out your nominee's info and submit her snapshot that showcases her glowing inner beauty. Every month, Nike will select one woman to be the Nike Aura Woman.



CARDIO exercise,  
like running, boxing,  
stretching, climbing,  
dancing, can fuel  
your aura.

GUYITO WILD HUNT



## REWARDS

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## Crazy chocolate cravings

From page C1

This may explain why so many people crave chocolate or sweets like ice cream and cake.

I have PMS and I'm all out of chocolate!

Pelchat says it is a well-documented fact that certain phases of the menstrual cycle are associated with cravings. Scientists are not sure if hormones are to blame, but it has been observed that women crave sweet (particularly chocolates) or salty food three days before and three days after menstruation.

Cravings can also happen any time during pregnancy as many pregnant women know. No one knows if the cravings are psychological or physiological in nature.

There's nothing wrong with me that a little chocolate won't cure.

The "serotonin hypothesis" seeks to explain why women crave chocolates before and after menstruation. Proponents of the theory say women are depressed due to low levels of a brain chemical called serotonin. They claim that chocolate and other sugary carbohydrates are natural anti-depressants because foods high in carbohydrates contain tryptophan, a substance that makes serotonin levels rise.

However, Pelchat says the hypothesis doesn't explain why women prefer chocolate to other carbohydrate foods like bread or pasta. She says maybe women just like chocolate for its taste, aroma and texture.

Forget love! I'd rather fall in chocolate!

Aside from tryptophan, there are other chemicals in chocolate that make you feel better. Theobromine and methylxanthine, cousins to caffeine, give you a mild perkng effect.

Chocolate also contains a brain chemi-

cal phenylethylamine that can quicken the pulse and raise blood sugar levels, producing a giddy state of wellbeing that some people have compared to the feeling of falling in love.

Some things in life are better rich—coffee, chocolate and men.

Aside from feel good chemicals, chocolate also has things that are good for your health (though this is no excuse to eat a box of choco aces).

Like red wine, apples and black tea, chocolate contains flavonols that increase good cholesterol, prevent bad cholesterol from clogging up arteries, and make the blood less likely to clot. It also contains nitric oxide, a compound associated with healthy blood flow and normal blood pressure.

Rich dark chocolate is healthiest because it has the most amount of flavonols. Pure cocoa powder and cocoa tablets are examples.

Milk chocolate, chocolate syrup and instant chocolate powder have far less flavonols because the manufacturing process destroys most of them.

White chocolate has no healthy flavonols since it only contains cocoa butter and milk solids.

\*\*\*

The UP College of Human Kinetics will hold its 3rd CHK Science Congress, "Setting the Bar for Human Movement Professionals in the Philippines: Issues and Directions," Oct 25-27, Nismed-STTC Auditorium, UP Diliman Campus, Call 9296033.

"In Fitness & In Health" has a new time slot, 8-8:30 a.m., Mondays to Fridays, Studio 23

Visit [www.tutuanfitness.info](http://www.tutuanfitness.info)

## Wellness tour

INSCRIBE Tours' Beauty Tour on Nov. 13 will bring participants to Ville Sommet, a new property in Tagaytay.

For the wellness session, one of the tour activities, participants will learn about traditional Oriental healing, tai chi and shiatsu from an expert.

After the wellness session, a healthful lunch follows at Ville Sommet's Seasons. Then participants will transfer to Nurture

Spa for a spa treatment, the highlight of the tour. Participants can choose from foot reflexology, hand and foot spa, facial and tranquility body massage.

Also included in the itinerary is a visit to Dog Maria Honeybee Farm where they will be briefed on the health benefits of honey, pollen and other bee products and shop for natural soaps, bath and skin-care items from honey and essential oils and other honey byproducts. Call 8405912 and 5758370 or text 0919-8184697.

# Korean government recognizes shamans

Part II

## INNER AWARENESS



Jaime T. Licaudo

**T**HE ASIAN Traditional Arts Festival in Seoul, Korea, Oct. 7-10, to which the Philippines was invited, was a major cultural event supported by several government agencies such as the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. A large portion of the funding came from the Prime Minister's Commission on Lottery, the Korean equivalent of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

The colorful event was held in the centuries-old traditional Namsan-Gol Han-ok Village in the midst of the modern city with towering skyscrapers.

The Asian Traditional Arts Festival 2004 brought together the shamanic practices and traditions of India, China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Indonesia, Russia and the United States via spectacular public performances. The Philippines was represented via a paper I read about our country's shamanistic practices since ancient times and how these differed from the west.

### Unable to make it

We originally intended to bring the fire-walkers of Alfonso, Cavite, but the group ran into economic and technical problems. In the end, it was decided I will just present a scholarly lecture on Philippine shamanism.

The task fell on me at the last moment. I had to pay for my own plane fare, although I was representing the country at an international festival of traditional arts and culture.

The Korean festival organizers, however, took care of delegates' accommodation and food, and gave small honoraria for the presentations.

The festival's opening ceremony was particularly moving. Shamans or medicine men of participating countries brought soil from their respective lands. On stage, the soils were carefully poured into a big container, blessed and mixed by the Korean shaman host.

After she had mixed all the soils, she gave some to each of the shamans to bring home as a symbol that peoples of the world were one. Each of the shamans prayed for peace, unity and brotherhood of all humankind. They asked the gods, their ancestors and spirit guides for help in achieving this goal.

### Traditional religion

Shamanism is one of the traditional religions of Korea, the others being Buddhism and Confucianism. Unlike in other industrialized cultures, Korean shamans are highly respected by the people. Even during these modern

times and highly advanced technology, the influence of shamans in Korean society is strong.

I saw one shaman in full shamanic regalia talking on a cell phone (called hand phone or HP in Korea).

I learned the Korean government recognized outstanding craftsmen and shamans. An award called Important Intangible Cultural Property is conferred on the best of them by the government.

One famous woman shaman named Kim Kum-Hwa holds this title. Her public performances include standing barefooted on top of the blades of two razor-sharp swords without getting hurt or wounded while possessed by spirits. She is considered one of Korea's National Treasures. In the Philippines, Jess Velasco, the head of Haring Bakal group in Lipa, for example, who can have his bare body hacked over 50 times with a sharp bolo or sword without getting wounded, is more likely to be considered a National Shrine than a National Treasure by the Philippine government.

### Asean forum

During the festival, I proposed to the delegates from Indonesia the holding of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Forum on Shamanism on a regular basis for the exchange of ideas and to learn from the rich shamanistic practices of each Asean country.

My idea was to start with Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and, perhaps, Malaysia, without closing the door to other Asian, and even non-Asian, countries later on.

The reason for starting with the three

or four countries is the obvious similarity or commonality in our shamanic or esoteric cultures implying a deep common ancestral root.

Although ASEAN countries differ in their religion (Indonesia and Malaysia are predominantly Muslim, Thailand Buddhist and the Philippines Christian), the shamanic or esoteric cultures of these countries have obvious similarities. There is much, therefore, to learn from each other, especially in the healing or treating of diseases.

Both the Indonesian delegates and myself agreed that we should see if Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore were interested in joining us. We plan to hold a conference or symposium on Shamanic Healing as practiced in these countries. If the response to the initiative is positive, then we can begin to plan our next move in establishing an Asean Forum initially on Shamanic Healing.

We also agreed we should try to get funding for this purpose from private sources and not from governments to free the initiative from political considerations and interruptions that happen to such activities every time a new election is held or a new government formed.

Returning from the highly impressive Asian Traditional Arts Festival in Seoul, Korea, where indigenous shamanic traditions of Korea and other Asian countries were featured and duly given recognition and importance, I began to wonder whether a similar event will ever be sponsored or supported by our Philippine government.

E-mail reactions to this column to [jlicaudo@edsamail.com.ph](mailto:jlicaudo@edsamail.com.ph)

Kim Kum-Hwa, who can stand barefoot on top of two razor-sharp blades, is considered one of her country's National Treasures

## UNIQUE COMBIPHASIC PILL CLEARS FACIAL ACNE



It is a common belief that only adolescents suffer from acne. This is not true. According to a study, those between ages 25 and 58, about 54% of women suffered some form of acne and the prevalence did not decrease substantially until after age 44. Cure for acne has centered on either non-prescription treatments like cleansers or astringents and prescription medications such as antibiotics and retinoids in oral or topical form. Although these preparations have proven effective, there are cases of acne wherein some patients will develop resistance or will totally do not respond to these therapies. Hormonal Therapy thus becomes the remaining option. Hormone Therapy for acne includes antiandrogens or oral contraceptives.

Since acne is basically a manifestation of increased levels of androgens (major hormone in males but normally present in small amounts in women), a balance has to be achieved between the estrogens and the androgenic effects of the progestogens in combined oral contraceptives or low dose pills. A new Pill, the only combiphasic Pill available locally which contains both estrogen (ethynodiol) and the progestogen (desogestrel) has been proved to be an effective treatment for mild to moderate acne. A study by Virtainen, et al. in 2001 showed that this unique combiphasic Pill reduced the number and severity of acne lesions over 8 cycles. The combiphasic Pill provides 2 different doses of the hormones in one cycle which closely resembles a woman's normal menstrual cycle and thus is able to establish or maintain the normal monthly bleeding pattern.

The combiphasic pill offers another non-contraceptive health benefit. Now, women can look forward to both having clear skin and avoiding an unplanned pregnancy!

For questions, please consult your doctor or email [graciel@organon.ph](mailto:graciel@organon.ph). Or send your letters to: ORGANON PHILS., INC. Sir Fr., Feliz Bldg., #108 VA Rufino St., Legazpi Village, Makati City 1260 Tel. # 02-8177538 loc. 14 & 20 Fax # 02-8177471

## Skin station boasts of high-end machine treatments



DIAMOND Peel, the latest non-surgical age eraser

GODIVA Skin Station, the first in what is going to be a chain of face and body care stations in the country, has opened at SM Fairview.

The station has high-end machine treatments like the Diamond Peel, the latest non-surgical age eraser.

Also available is the micro current machine for non-surgical facelift, necklift and bustlift in a matter of minutes. Micro current is applied with Godiva Firming Cream to exercise and tone facial muscles.

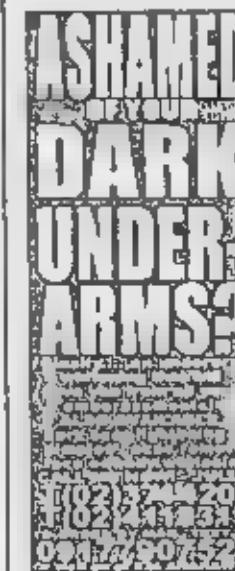
With the station, Godiva enhances the effects of its whitening products that use Licorice extract. The station provides Licorice Whitening Facial using Licorice cream, Vitamin C serum and a specially formulated whitening mask. The 90-minute

treatment includes extraction, laser application and facial massage to minimize fine lines and even out skin tone.

Other services offered by the station include Swedish massage and lymphatic drainage. It also offers the Gentleman's Executive Facial to address the specific skin care needs of men. The treatment includes deep pore cleansing and softening with European facial massage.

For ultimate body pampering, Godiva also offers a combination of Swedish, Shiatsu and Thai massage using aromatic essential oils exclusively made for the station.

Godiva Skin Station is at SM Fairview Annex, Upper Ground Level, tel. 9391105. A satellite outlet at the Open Building, Makati City is also accepting clients now. Call 8909845 or 0918-9070646.



## Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya



Take Charge Doc is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

### Is breastfeeding of infants really essential? How do infant formulas fair against mother's milk?

Yes, breastfeeding of infants is essential. It is considered most ideal for infant nutrition at least during the first six months but may be continued even up to the 24th month. Whenever possible, breastfeeding must be encouraged for several reasons: 1) human breast milk supplies the necessary nutrients including proteins of the highest biological value (quality), long-chain unsaturated fatty acids, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals that are rapidly digested and efficiently absorbed; 2) the human milk contains antibacterial and antiviral properties which inhibit the growth and destroy microorganisms that cause respiratory, gastrointestinal and other infections; 3) it is hypoallergenic, 4) it is free, safe, always fresh, and readily available at the right temperature, and 5) the act of breastfeeding nurtures an opportunity for bonding between the mother and the baby.

Although breast milk is the unparalleled source of nutrients for normal infants, there are instances when breastfeeding is impossible. In such cases, it is desirable to give a formula with a composition as close to human breast milk as possible. The available commercial infant formulas are cow's milk base that have been modified to improve their safety and quality.



We rely on the expert advice of Dr. Juliette V. Dilzon for this week's feature question on the importance of breastfeeding your baby. Our resource person specializes in the field Pediatrics and has over 15 years of clinical experience. She is a Medicine graduate of Manila Central University and in 1984 finished her residency training for Pediatrics at the school's hospital, MCU-Dr. Filomeno D. Tancho Medical Foundation (MCU-FDTMF). Dr. Dilzon is a Fellow to the Philippine Pediatric Society, a Fellow and President of the Philippine Academic Society for Microbiology and Parasitology and a Life member of the Philippine Medical Association. Members may visit her for their consultation needs at MCU-FDTMF, Room 14 every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 1 to 4 in the afternoon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o TAKE CHARGE DOC!) or e-mail him at [Inquiry@medicardphils.com](mailto:Inquiry@medicardphils.com) for inquiries on health matters.

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## Pinoy theme wins art contest's top prize



CRISTIANA Jade "CJ" de Silva got the top prize in the recent Chuck-Up-Your-Converse competition.

"Proud to be Pinoy" was her entry in the competition that involved jazzing up Converse's Chuck Taylor All Stars sneakers.

Judges in the event were eventologist Tim Yap, model Russa Mananquil-Samson and artist Jose Santos III.

The artist says she wears Chuck Taylors herself and owns five pairs.

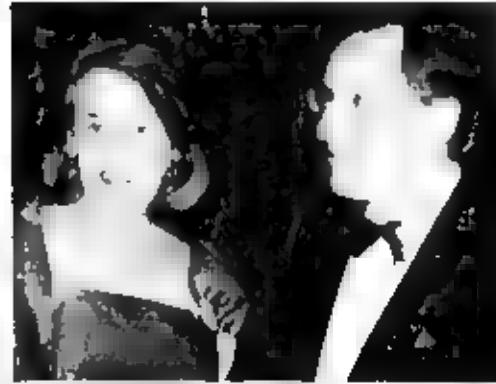




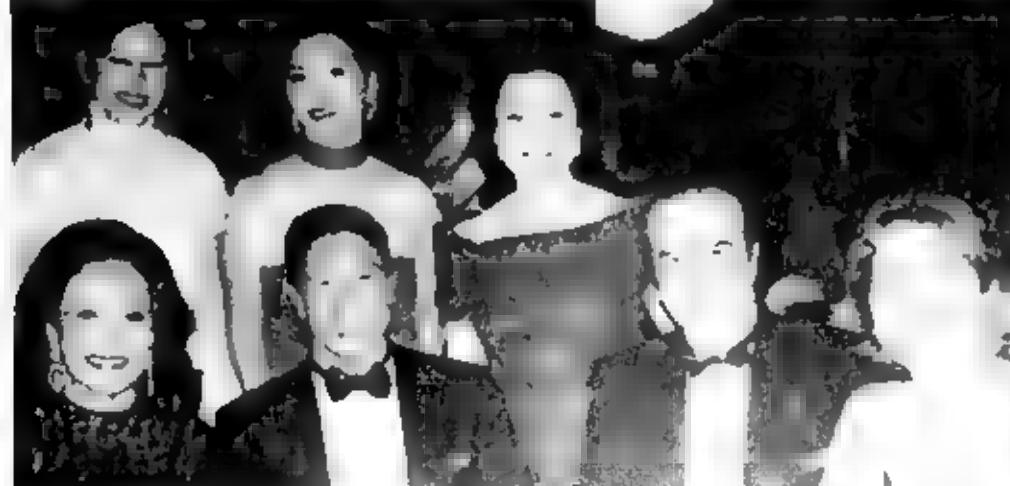
ELEGANT Minerva Tanseco with Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz (right) and Madame Aurora Lapuz (left)



VICKY Cadungog with Tessie Amparo, Cynthia Villar, Nonie Basilio and Nini Layug



AMBASSADOR of the United Kingdom Paul and Carolyn Dimond



SOCIALITE Mellie, with her new let-it-hang-out hairdo, and Louie Ablaza, Ambassador of Chile Jorge M. and his gorgeous wife Johnna Montero. (Standing) Czarina Syquia, Cha Cha Camacho and CCP president Alice Briones



IRENE Martel Francisco, Warner Manning, Meldy Cojuangco and Alice Briones, CWC major sponsors, give donations for street children to Rev. Fr. Rocky Evangelista, president and CEO of the Tuloy Don Bosco Street Children's Village



OLGA Severino Martel and Deborah Landey, resident representative of UNDP

## Going down memory lane to help build a chapel

THE FASHIONABLE ladies of the Catholic Women's Club celebrated their 83rd anniversary in the ballroom of the Peninsula Hotel, Makati, with an elegant dinner dance fund-raiser.

The affair was headed by CWC president, workaholic Alice Briones, and the Special Event Committee, chaired by the ultra-glamorous Meldy Cojuangco. Co-chairs were Philippine Tatler's Irene Francisco and Cha Cha Camacho, Nonie Basilio, Carla Santos, Tita Rodriguez and Carrie Bautista.

Alice said proceeds from the event would be used "exclusively to help fund the construction of the chapel in Tuloy Don Bosco Street-children's Village in Alabang."

In side the ballroom, the band continuously played "Moonlight Serenade." It was clear the

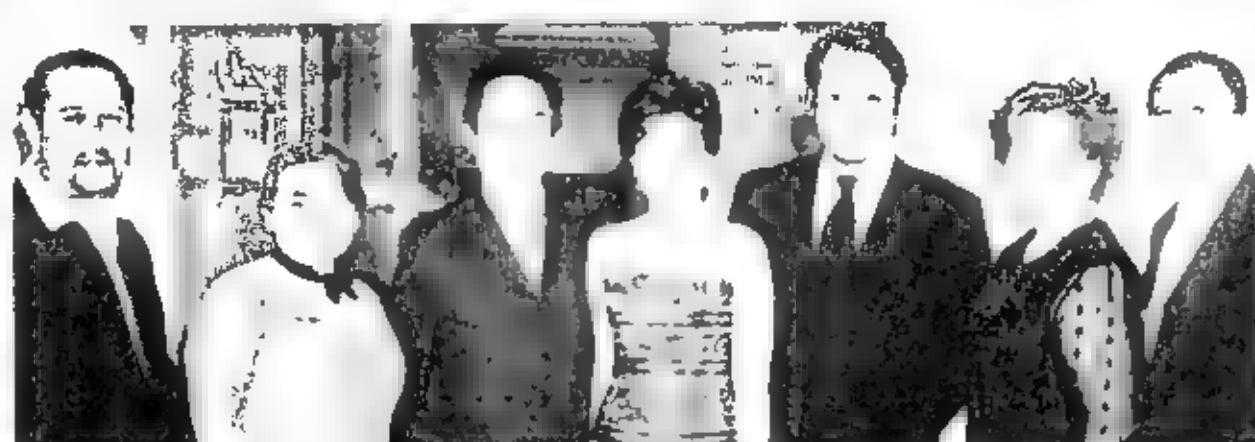


WOMEN who care for the less privileged. CWC Special Event Committee members Nonie Basilio, Cha Cha Camacho, co-chair Irene Martel Francisco, CWC president Alice Briones, and Carla Santos listen as the Special Event chair, patroness of the less fortunate, Meldy Cojuangco, welcomes invitees.

### WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache  
Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max



HOTSHOT singers of the fund-raiser: Jorge Hizon, Tessie Chan, Audie Gemora, Joji Tan, Juan Miguel Ongsakao, Myrna Borromeo and Robert Arevalo



THE CHOSEN FIVE. Manila's Five Loveliest 2005—(front) Diana Carla Sison, Diana Darlene How and Pamela Bianca Manalo; (back) Finna Maria Tugade and Kathleen Shara Mae Que

years. The least I could do was to be there.

In his most impressive and charming self, Chiyuki Fujimoto, Dusit's magnum general manager, with the hotel's hot directors and movers and shakers, the sales managers, welcomed us, *palanggas*.

With loads of Americans around, beer, scotch and martinis were the order of the night. They flowed freely in the swinging Ciao at Dusit's mezzanine. The yummy, heavy finger food was an excellent fusion of different cuisines from the hotel's popular Thai, Viet namese and Japanese restaurants.

The party really got rolling when some guests and hotel officers went into a karaoke. The frustrated American Idol wannabe contenders belted out their best and some off-key songs.

Hey, don't knock it, dahlings, look how far William Hung, the real American Idol, has gone with his "Shebang-Shebang" sexy video

clip. Even moi couldn't take my eyes off when I see it on MTV.

One real oddly invitee was discussing with me hotel rates here and abroad. He told me how expensive some resorts in Boracay have become, mentioning one in particular. "Did you stay long in this hotel?" I asked. "Oh no," he said, "just long enough to hear their rates." Ops! That's Bora for you, *palanggas*.

### Manila's loveliest

Love Foundation celebrates 16 successful years of unwavering support for the good of our fellow humans. True to its commitment, the Love Foundation continuously gives unconditional love and hope to many of our less fortunate brothers and sisters, *palanggas*.

Couple of sleeps ago, the foundation and moi (after all I am one of the directors) hosted a fun dinner to meet the proud parents of Manila's Five Loveliest 2005 at the function hall of the Pacific Plaza Tower. Every year we use this gathering as an opportunity to discuss with the partners the vision-mission of the foundation. We also briefed them on what to expect during the gala presentation on Nov. 10 at the grand Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri La Hotel.

Our search for Manila's Five Loveliest is a major annual fund-raising project to raise funds for the foundation's scholarship program. Every year, *palanggas*, the Love Foundation tries to increase the number of scholars it will help pursue a four-year college education. At present, the foundation is sending 18 deserving students to different universities both public and private.

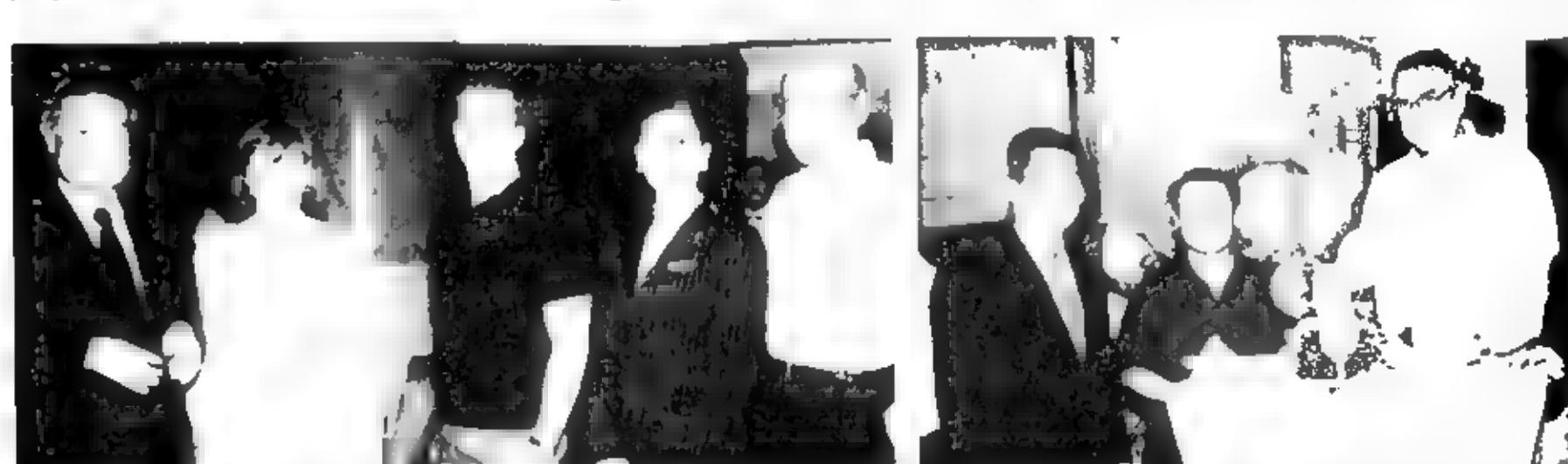
So there they were, Manila's Loveliest, all prettied up and excited that they were chosen. This year's Five Loveliest are Diana Darlene O. How, Pamela Bianca R. Manalo, Kathleen Shara May L. Que, Diana Carla P. Sison and Finna Maria M. Tugade.

Handsome ach-er Tom Valderama, representing hot brands like Smart Infinty/Smart Gold and Sony Ericsson, major sponsors of the glitzy event, was all smiles, natch!

The men and women behind the foundation are the dedicated, persevering, generous officers and directors like Irene Marie Francisco, chair emeritus; chair Nini Licaros; Helen Ong, president; Cinderella's Therese Santos, vice president; Nini Valdez, secretary; Mel Meer, treasurer; and Donnie Ramirez, public relations. Directors are Becky Garcia and Robinson's Frederick Go, Bulgari's Mario Katigbak, charity-oriented society women Joanne Maischuck, Naty Pappas, Yolly Ayson, Celia Cuasay, Mona Tantoco, Bernice Palanca Go, Virna Vergel de Dios and Cha Cha Camacho. Can't wait for that big happening, *palanggas*.



DUSIT Hotel Nikko's popular GM Chiyuki Fujimoto, with Mae Blottner and Eric Grentz; Melotte Mondelo, the hotel's mega director of sales; and Ben Steele



GILBERT Uy, banquet director of Dusit, with Edu Niala, commercial specialist, US-Commercial Department, and David Miller

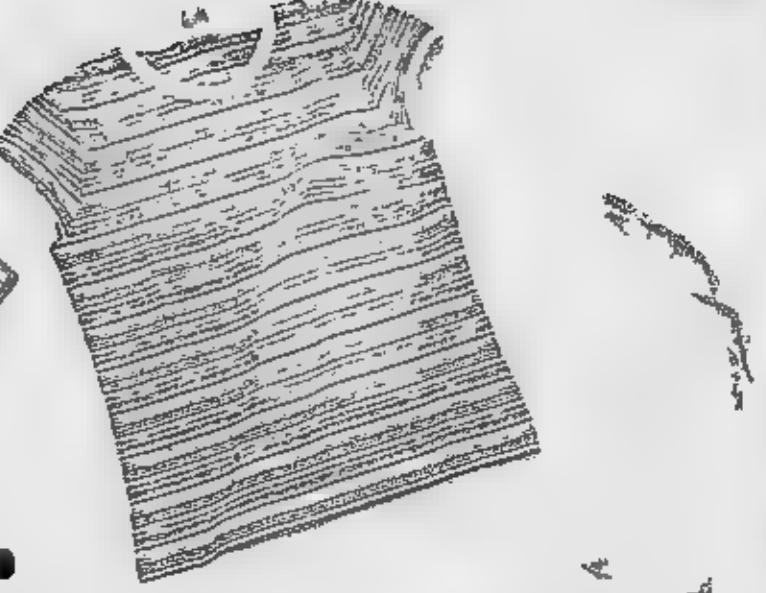
FATIGUE and navy blue shorts,  
P399.75 and P499.75



STRIPED halter top, P269.75; cropped navy blue jazz pants, P699.75

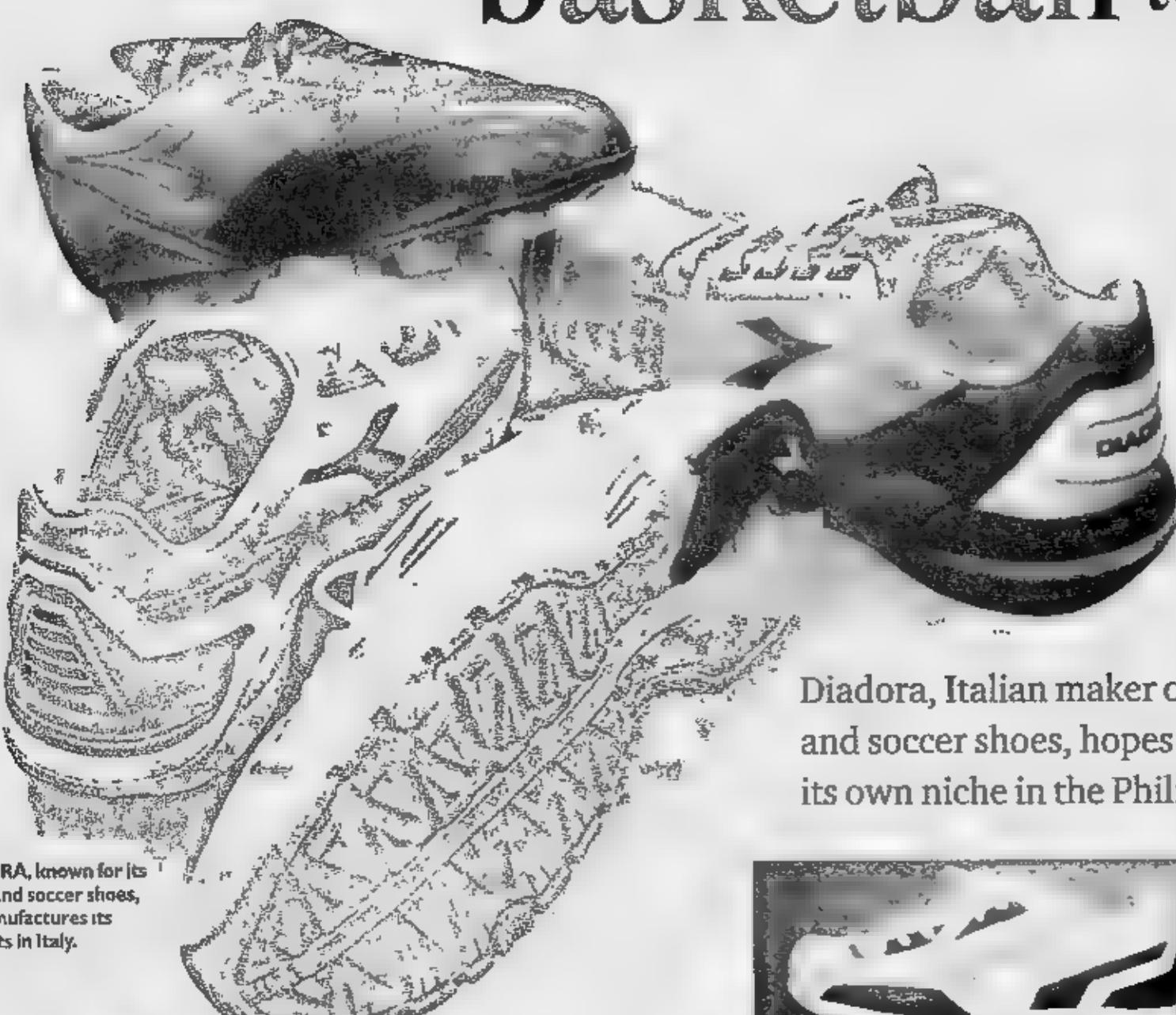


FATIGUE and navy blue shorts,  
P399.75 and P499.75



STRIPED tee, P379.75; skirt, P699.75

# Tennis 'expert' ventures into basketball territory



DIADORA, known for its tennis and soccer shoes, still manufactures its products in Italy.

Diadora, Italian maker of tennis and soccer shoes, hopes to carve its own niche in the Philippines



GYM bag, P899.75; backpack, P629.75



SLEEVELESS rose pink tee, P329.75; black jogging pants, P529

Text by Anne A. Jambora  
Photos by Betoy Johnson

**I**T was tennis legend Björn Borg who first made Diadora a household name when, at the peak of his career, he brandished on court what would become a familiar logo in many parts of the world.

Borg, who won a total of 141 grand slam matches during his career, was the Italian sports brand's first endorser. Today, Diadora's drumbeater is the 2004 French Open champ, Argentinean Gaston Gaudio.

"I think, in any brand, you must go for your own niche. Diadora has always had a niche in tennis and soccer," says Alfred S.H. Toh, Diadora director and general manager of the brand distributor, Teamlink Marketing Pte. Ltd.-Singapore.

#### Most affordable

Diadora, says Toh, is one of the few Italian sport brands that still makes most of its products in its home country. And, at a price 20 percent less than the leading brand, Diadora is one of the most affordable authentic Italian sport labels in the country.

The brand that has yet to be a household name here, was conceived in 1948 by Marcello Daniell, who started by manufacturing an all-important army supply: Mountain climbing boots. After spending the next decade building the brand's reputation, Diadora's

next product was the luxurious, hand-finished après-ski (after-ski) boots during the economic boom of the '60s.

So dedicated was the young company to its self-imposed criteria of elegance, comfort, performance and durability that, when plastic was introduced, Diadora stopped producing ski boots. It shifted to walking shoes manufacture, then tennis shoes. Soccer shoes soon after.

Today, Diadora offers a full range—from technologically advanced athletic footwear and apparel to sporty lifestyle products. Shoes come in eight major categories: Football, cycling, running, tennis, leisure, heritage, kids, and utility for the professional, occasional player and everyday casual wearers. Diadora's soccer shoes are made of soft, kangaroo skin so they don't need breaking in.

#### Color-coded apparel

Serious athletes or gym rats can try their mold- and moth-resistant, antibacterial, non-allergenic and nonodorous sportswear. Diadora also has a chromotherapy line, based

on the belief that colors can affect an athlete's psyche and overall performance.

Toh says 10 years ago sports technology became an in thing for many manufacturers and their clients. "Every brand will come out with a new technology, or (a variation) to make (the product) look different or new just to get a niche in the market."

But only 15-20 percent of the market truly cares about technological developments. And that's because not everyone is into serious sports. Hence, every brand has to come up with so-called lifestyle products to fill a void in the market.

The Filipinos' desire to look good despite dire times and dwindling savings accounts prompted Diadora to bring in more lifestyle products, 60-70 percent of its local inventory.

In Singapore, on the other hand, about 80 percent of sales involve more "serious" athletic wear.

#### Cultural

The two countries' differing tastes, says Toh, is a matter of culture and not because more Singaporeans are into sports.

"If you want to launch a product in the Philippine market you must have the full range not because you think it will sell, but because you must have [something to] complement each product," Toh says.

Toh hopes that, by next year, Filipinos will become more familiar with the brand in time for the launch of its first freestanding store. The Philippines' reputation as basketball land does not daunt the Italian company.

The local tennis market may not be as big, says Toh, but there lies the brand's strength: "With our expertise I'm sure we can get our market (and would not have to) go into something (where) we are not strong," he says.

And soccer? Well, that is a whole new ball game but Toh is optimistic Diadora can get a foothold through college team sponsorships, etc.

Diadora is available at Robinsons Department Store, Olympic Village, Toby's, Chocolate Shop and Anonymous.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.net



BLUE and slate polo shirts, P599.75 each



SLEEVELESS sportswear in aqua, purple and black, at P269.75 each



FOXTROT



BY BILL AMEND

BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN



BY TOM ARMSTRONG

A. LIPIN



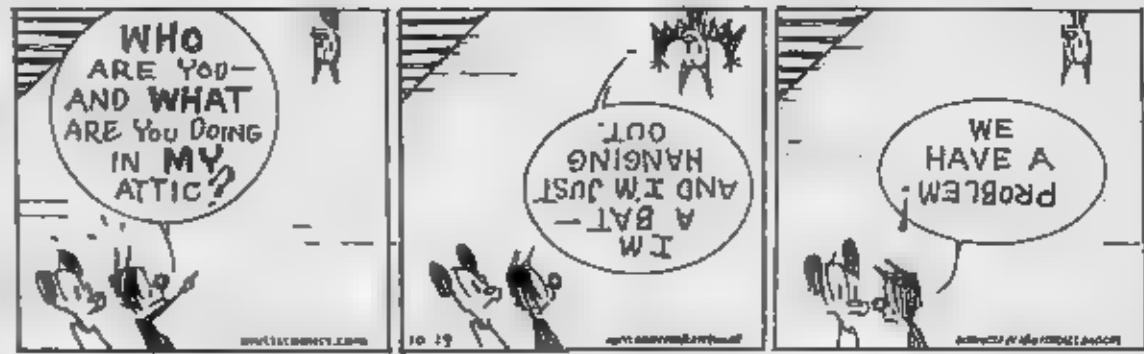
BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS



BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY



BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're intelligent, humorous and outspoken. You tell it like it is. Your lively energy electrifies any gathering. You like to reveal hidden truths. (Very little escapes your probing mind.) You value family and friendships. No matter what happens, you always bounce back. Get ready for one of the best years of your life. Enjoy!

**Birthdate of:** Patricia Ireland, human-rights activist; John Lithgow, actor; Evander Holyfield, boxer.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): Others seem to restrict you today. You might feel obligated to partners or friends. You might have to attend a function you'd really rather avoid. (Boring!)

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): This might be a dreary day at work. Why? Because bosses and authority figures are too critical. Cope as best you can!

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): You feel somewhat weighed down by the responsibilities of children today. Your energy is low, and you feel a bit world-weary.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): You feel trapped in a rut at home with responsibilities. But have you noticed that nothing at all might change, and yet in a day or two you can feel completely different?

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're inclined to worry too much today. Your glass is half-empty, not half-full. This is just a temporary black cloud drifting over your horizon.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Hold on to your purse strings today. If you feel worried about spending money on something, then don't do it. When in doubt, do nothing.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't worry if you feel cut off or lonely today. That's how a lot of people feel right now. You don't want to work, and you don't want to party. It's an indecisive day.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Shrug off feelings of discouragement. These feelings pass in a day. Everyone feels a bit serious and sober today. It's just one of those things.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Activity and optimism are what make you tick. You need to take a positive stand on things. Today this isn't easy. (Don't worry, you'd be surprised by how others feel!)

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Relations with authority figures are not especially good today. You feel impatient with restrictions; nevertheless, you're surrounded by duties and obligations. (By Thursday things are better.)

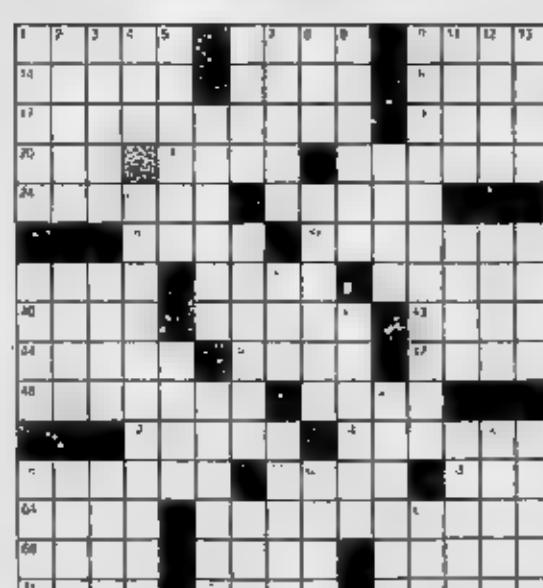
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't let somebody else convince you how to think or believe. You have a mind of your own. (If there's one sign that doesn't run with the pack, it's Aquarius!)

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're disappointed with someone's lack of generosity or consideration. You don't agree on how things are shared. Don't worry about getting the short end of the stick. Things will change in 48 hours.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Accumulate
- 6 Look for bargains
- 10 Tumbled
- 14 Gymnast Comencini
- 15 One-third of a WWII move?
- 16 Merle Haggard hit, " \_ from Muskogee"
- 17 Local level
- 18 Art style of the '20s and '30s
- 20 Fig. of speech
- 21 Perch on a bicycle
- 22 Depress
- 24 Threw sally
- 26 Orr
- 28 Snare
- 30 Hug
- 34 Hebrew month
- 37 Ask for proof of age
- 39 Book of maps
- 40 Carolina rail
- 41 Fall behind
- 43 Lubricious
- 44 Fish by dragging a net
- 46 Alabuepa, e.g.
- 47 Corduroy feature
- 48 Verse form
- 50 In the past
- 52 Creighton University site
- 54 Scale notes
- 55 Detector
- 61 Pierce
- 63 Actor Chaney
- 64 Cors' opposing
- 65 Horses
- 68 Pay to play
- 69 Podiatrist
- 70 Sempio McPherson
- 71 PGA pegs
- 72 Booc or Anjou
- 73 Wading bird



By Eugene R. Pullenberger  
Houston, TX  
10/19/04

Monday's Puzzle Solved

ANTS	SWAT	4. COA
SOOT	TOOK	5. ODS
ANNA	JULY	10. SOS
POUNCE	OPEN	11. HEAT
REFLECT	LOVE	12. PUP
KAHAF	ALFRED	13. TEE
AGORA	OL	14. LOPE
MIDDLE	OPEN	15. WHERE
ELI	ARES	16. AVEN
TFI	REED	17. AMIT
EEL	COLL	18. ELL
RABBIT	CREC	19. ENOS
NAN	JAR	20. RBS
SANE	STET	21. GENE

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- 49 Rolling server
- 51 Venomous snakes
- 53 Sanctuaries
- 56 Edible mushroom
- 57 Map on a map
- 58 Quarrel
- 59 Sea eagle
- 60 Short letter
- 62 Skies' ride
- 65 Pub potable
- 66 Young louse

DOWN

1 Anxious feeling

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# Conqueror of crocodiles

By Constantino C. Tejero

**B**RADY Barr, world-renowned herpetologist popularly known as Dr. B., has an extraordinary passion. His wife in Costa Rica was awaiting the arrival of their first-born while he was swimming in Disulap River in San Mariano, Isabela, trying to catch crocodiles.

Barr was shooting an episode for the National Geographic Channel's series "Crocodile Chronicles" to be released next year.

Barr is a celebrated expert on crocodiles, alligators, caimans, gavials, and also on snakes, anacondas, boa constrictors, pit vipers. He and his team captured the second-largest Orinoco crocodile caught in the last 25 years, and the longest and heaviest anaconda on record in Venezuela.

Barr was in the country for the first time to study the aquatic reptile, particularly the Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*), one of 23 crocodilian species on earth, and one of two species in the country.

Discovered on Mindoro as a new species in 1935, the freshwater crocodile is endemic to the Philippines, generally restricted to inland wetlands. (The other species, the Estuarine crocodile or *Crocodylus porosus*, occurs widely from India to Australia, along coastal areas and in the sea.)

It is harmless, even shy, unless provoked. At a maximum length of 2.5 meters, it burrows in limestone areas and hides in small caves by a lake, marsh or creek.

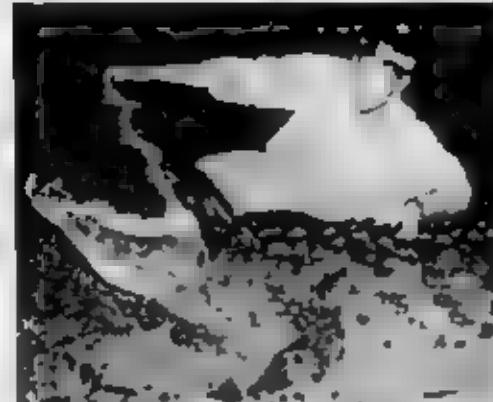
"The caves are very small that when you meet a croc there, it can't even open its mouth," jokes Dutch wildlife biologist Merlijn van Weerd, who works for the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Conservation Project. "It is a true Filipino—very small, a bit shy, and extremely friendly."

#### Most threatened

The crocodile is listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as critically endangered, the most threatened crocodile species in the world.

After disappearing on Mindoro, it was rediscovered in 1999 in San Mariano, Isabela, declared a sanctuary in 2001.

Van Weerd, a team leader of Mabuwaya Foundation's Crocodile Rehabilitation, Observation and Conservation (CROC), a research project to safeguard the Philippine crocodile



DR. Brady Barr says crocodiles are only capable of short, intense bursts of energy, so battling with them must be very brief, as crocodiles can exhaust themselves to death.

In the wild, says the reptile is surviving mainly because of the caves.

"If Filipinos let it slip away, they'll only have themselves to blame," says Barr. "We don't know their number. If it's 50, we're in big trouble."

CROC says, once widely distributed throughout the Philippines, the reptile is now restricted to a few remote areas in Mindanao, Negros and Luzon, with a population believed to be less than 100.

Foreign and local conservationists have joined forces to save the species: Isabela State University and Leiden University (the Netherlands), in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, local governments and local communities.

Billboards in Ilocano, Filipino and English have been put up, and T-shirts, information flyers and brochures are being distributed. Reforestation of the crocodile's habitats is ongoing.

Breeding in captivity has been successful, and more subpopulations have been discovered in Isabela, particularly in Divilacan and Palanan.

#### Most dangerous

Van Weerd says the species' growing population could be because of the caves and conservation efforts, or because of indigenous people such as the Kalingas and the Agtas, who link crocodiles to their ancestors and thus, protect them.

The Philippine crocodile is now totally protected under the Wildlife Act of 2001 that protects



THE PHILIPPINE crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) is a small, shy and harmless animal that does not attack people unless provoked.



Dr. Brady Barr goes to Isabela to wrestle with a 'true Filipino' for a National Geographic episode

vides heavy penalties for violations.

Barr approaches a crocodile without any special gadgets. It's just muscles against muscles, he says, aware that those jaws can bite down at 3,000 lbs per sq in, and the back is covered with a dorsal armor of long bony plates.

"I've seen a lot of bullets lodged in that coat of armor," he says.

"(Crocodiles are) some of the most powerful animals on the planet. They explode in a single intense burst of energy, but only briefly, then they get exhausted. They can exhaust themselves to death... The longer the stress, the bigger the chance they will die."

#### Back from extinction

In a holding pen in San Mariano, Barr demonstrates how to catch a croc to a crowd that included media people from Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

He wades in the puddle, slowly approaches one, tentatively touches its head, then grabs and grapples with it while gripping it by the neck, holding its throat, clutching its body between his thighs as it thrashes about. For its size, the animal's burst of energy is, indeed, incredible.

In the explosive struggle, Barr scrapes his knuckles against the concrete fence, but he wouldn't let go until the creature keeps still. When he turns it on its back, it becomes helpless (as in a turned turtle).

The day marked the capture of his 21st crocodile species. Now his quest is down to two: The Chinese alligator and the saltwater crocodile of Borneo.

The NGC fact sheet says, "Brady Barr stands to become the first person to ever cap-

ture all 23 species of crocodilians in the wild."

Laid on the table, the animal is measured and sexed (female). It will soon be released in its natural habitat, with a radio transmitter to monitor the radius of its range, diet, routine. Barr says every fact has to be checked by three experts, and he acknowledges the local scientists' role.

"It's a lot easier to bring a croc back from the brink of extinction," he says, explaining that, when hatching their eggs, the temperature can be controlled to produce a male or a female. Then all one has to do is, of course, produce more females.

"They really are the ultimate survivors," he continues. "They're resistant to diseases. They produce a lot of eggs. They're smart. They've been in the planet for millions of years, they know what to avoid."

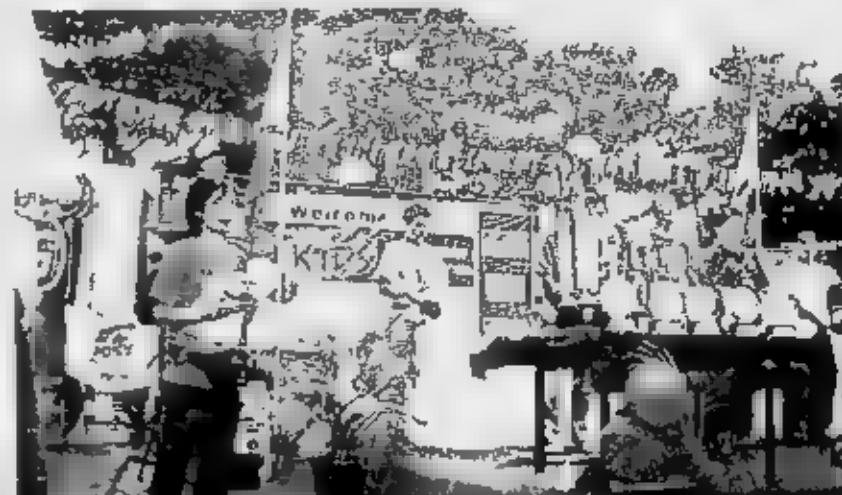
#### Forgiving creatures

Brady finds snakes very, very stressful. "Snakes scare me. You can make big mistakes with a croc, it's very forgiving, but with snakes—it's just too fast! But I like the big snakes the nonvenomous ones."

A crocodile's body is not as flexible as a snake's and it is not as fast; the reach of its jaws is limited to left and right, while a snake can turn back, rotate or recoil. It doesn't have the snake's venom.

"My family is very, very nervous—but they know it's my passion," Barr says. "I'd be 42 soon, but I feel like 142. My body aches, my knees are so bad... parasites... drugs for tropical diseases... And there are the 13 episodes for NGC every nine months. To keep up with everything—it's killing!"

## Tot baseball, softball tourney begins



THE 2004 KIDS Tournament of Champions, the largest and longest running youth baseball and softball competition in the country, will be held every Sunday until March 2005.

Ateneo, Brent, School of the Holy Spirit, De La Salle (Antipolo, Greenhills, Lipa and Zobel), International School Manila, Manila Japanese School, Marist, Miriam, Northfield, Poveda, Southridge, St. John's,

Woodrose and Xavier

Interested schools, organizations and individuals can call the Junior Baseball and Softball Foundation of the Philippines at 8156429 or e-mail alabang\_baseball@yahoo.com.

## Facility for sports injuries opens

A COMPLETE physical, medical and rehabilitation facility to promote the prevention and proper treatment of sports-related injuries was set up recently at the Adidas Sports Kamp, E-Square Park, Bonifacio Global City.

Although intended primarily to provide first aid, Rehab Kamp is equipped to treat various injuries, from musculo-skeletal injuries like low back pain, neck pain, sprains, strains, arthritis, foot pain and knee

pain, to sports-related fractures and dislocations.

Its equipment include the traction machine (for neck and lower back), electrical stimulation (to improve muscle function), a Theraball, Trampoline and Theraband (for strengthening).

Treatments are supervised by Rehab Kamp doctors, including Drs. Svetlana Manz Olaso-Ayacardo and Romil Martinez, and surgeon Dr. Jovy

Eala.

Rehab Kamp also has a tie-up with a sports psychologist who assists in evaluation and counseling of patients.

Patients are also taught how to prevent another injury.

Rehab Kamp is open 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Sunday. Doctors' clinic hours are 4-6 p.m., MWF; 9 a.m.-12 p.m., T-Th-Sun; and 3-6 p.m., Saturday. Call 8160471.

## Hearing loss is no barrier to success

MARCO Ocampo, 27, is an example of how a physical handicap should not stand in the way of success.

The Industrial Engineering graduate of Mapua Institute of Technology is the night shift supervisor at Swift Cash Inc., a remittance company. He answers online inquiries and gives updates on status of transactions to overseas company agents.

Ocampo, who started to suffer from hearing loss at age 5, does his work with the help of a hearing aid. He relies

on the Manila Hearing Aid Center (MHAC), the country's pioneer in hearing care and service industry, to keep his hearing aid in good condition and for other needs. MHAC offers services such as a complete hearing laboratory, with all the engineering facilities need to provide adequate service.

With his hearing impairment not posing a serious obstacle, Ocampo plans to take up Information Technology to improve his chances of landing an overseas job.



## Respiratory distress may not be just a cold

UPPER respiratory problems characterized by sneezing and itchy, runny and clogged nose may not be just a common cold.

They could mean allergic rhinitis, the swelling or inflammation of the nose or nasal membrane.

The condition is caused by exposure to substances called allergens that cause the body's immune system to release histamine, which can cause allergic rhinitis.

Many Filipinos suffer from allergic rhinitis that may be triggered by pollution, molds and pollen. Pollution has become a growing concern among Filipinos, especially those in Metro Manila, reputedly one of the most polluted cities in Asia.

Common airborne molds like Cladosporium and Aspergillus are present almost everywhere. Outdoors, they are in soil, vegetation and rotting wood.

Pollens, the tiny grains that allow plants to reproduce, may be carried by bees or blown by the wind. People may develop allergic rhinitis by inhaling the wind-blown pollen.

The key to preventing allergic rhinitis is to stay indoors, which is not possible for most people.

But if allergic rhinitis cannot be avoided, there are over-the-counter (OTC) drugs—antihistamines—that can relieve its symptoms.

One OTC medication for allergic rhinitis is Benadryl (Diphenhydramine HCl) AH Anti-Allergy Capsule that has been found to be 54 percent more effective than the leading brand in relieving symptoms of the ailment.

For more information on allergic rhinitis and Benadryl AH Anti-Allergy Capsule, visit [www.rspinoy.com](http://www.rspinoy.com).



ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

## Health aids

COUNTLESS vitamins, minerals and friendly bacteria, when included in one's regimen, can promote good health. Let's take a look at some of them:

### Acidophilous

Lactobacillus acidophilous or acidophilous is a rich source of friendly intestinal bacteria. Considered more potent than yogurt, this is one's best defense against an imbalance in the intestinal flora.

Doctors often prescribe its use in conjunction with oral antibiotic treatment to ensure the restoration of good bacteria while preventing an overgrowth of fungus that grows in the intestines, nails, vagina, lungs, mouth.

This type of treatment is now popularly known as probiotics. Regular usage can keep the intestines clean, prevent bad breath, constipation, prevent acne and skin problems. It will also prevent vaginal dryness in menopausal women.

Recommendation: Take two acidophilous capsules 30 minutes to one hour before meals, three times a day.

### Yeast

Considered one of the richest sources of organic iron, yeast is one of nature's wonder foods. Known to lower cholesterol (if combined with lecithin),

**INSIDE OUT**

**Cory Quirino**



it also relieves gout and body aches and pains, as well as fights fatigue.

Brewers yeast—from hops, a by-product of beer

Torula yeast—from wood pulp

Whey—byproduct of milk/cheese

Liquid yeast—from Switzerland/Germany, fed on herbs and oranges

Please avoid baker's yeast as it depletes Vitamin B in the intestines.

A power house combination. Vitamin B and yeast.

Recommendation: Take one tablet in juice or water between meals. Energy is guaranteed to last for hours. To curb your appetite, mix in your juice just before meals.

### Alfalfa

Frank Bover, a noted biologist, called it "the great healer." The leaves of this legume contains eight essential enzymes. A good laxative and a natural diuretic, it is rich in Vitamins K, D, E, B6 calcium, magnesium, potassium.

Recommendation: Take as a supplement in capsules three to six times daily. (Caution: Alfalfa can aggravate lupus and other autoimmune disorders.)

### Yucca

This extract comes from a tree like the Joshua tree of the liliaceae family. It has been used by Indians for centuries to treat many ailments, including arthritis and rheumatism, joint pain and inflammation. Take one tablet/capsule three times daily.

### Bromelain

This enzyme, derived from the stem of pineapples, aids digestion, reduces pain and protects the stomach lining.

Recommendation: As a digestive aid, take one to two 500 mg tablets after meals.

### Your weekly affirmation

"Every day in every way I grow in health and wisdom."

### Beauty regimen

A splash of cool water on the face to perk you up. Pat your cheeks gently for added blush.

### Love and light!

Reference: Earl Mindell's Vitamin Bible for the 21st Century



CHECHEL Jason and Brad Turvey announce the winner of the Astring-O-Sol celebrity dating game.

## Mouthwash-drenched kisses

"SEX and the City" fans were recently treated to a triple treat at the Bellevue Hotel: The much-awaited premiere of the first two episodes of the final season of "Sex and the City," a New York-inspired fashion show sponsored by Rustan's, and a sizzling celebrity dating game featuring Brad Turvey as the celebrity searcher sponsored by Astring-O-Sol Ice.

The dating game had three lovely contestants doing a dating quiz with Turvey. Questions revolved around dating activi-

ties, bedroom fantasies and secret singles behavior—"Sex and the City" style. Then the girls were made to give their sexiest kiss to a blindfolded Turvey.

In the end, Cecile Manansala, a balik-bayan nurse, won the competition.

And that's what Astring-O-Sol Ice can do. Mouth germs are eliminated, giving you the freshest breath so you can get bolder and sexier. So pucker up and get those lips smacking for a hot date anytime.



JOHNNY Litton, flanked by two models, hosted the recent Sex and the City premiere at the Bellevue hotel sponsored by Astring-O-Sol Ice.

## Cheerdancing as electric sport, colorful fashion

As the cheerdance contest of the University Athletic Association of the Phils. (UAAP) has shown, cheerleading has become a spectator sport. It has also impressed upon people that fitness and grace are not antithetical, they go together.

This fusion of strength and beauty was shown by the UAAP cheerdance champions, the University of Santo Tomas' Salinggawi Dance Troup, who proudly wore their LA Gear of gold, yellow and black.

The Salinggawi members were all heart as they pranced, prowled, pirouetted, pyramid-ed and propelled in synchronized, syncopated sophistication in their six-minute bid to defend their championship. It was no sweat; it won its third straight championship.

The sixth in line among the eight UAAP members, the UST Salinggawi opened with the highly accented choral rhythm of the opening aria of Carl Orff's opera, "Carmina Burana." At the end, they magically formed their trademark pyramid in the wink of an eye—a feat unrivaled by other teams.

Then came the Macarena beat, choo-choo train, pop, hip-hop, ballet and the awesome capoeira. The latter, an African-Brazilian mixture of dance, music, acrobatics and martial arts, was a showcase in the use of finesse, guile and maneuver.

The dynamic movements of the Gawi, as they are fondly called, such as cartwheels, handstands and spinning kicks, mirrored capoeira's and their own history—filled with trials and tribulations. This art evolved with African slaves expressing their feelings and

maintaining their original culture.

All the nerve-wracking spins and tosses in midair were timed to the canned music. The performance was poetry in motion.

The ballet sequence to the music of Beethoven's "Feuer Elise," which recreated a music box dancer in a carousel, was bittersweet. The square dance to the bye-bye beat of "Be My Baby" transported the audience to the innocent '60s.

But what brought the house down was the propeller toss, a stunt that took the breath away of the audience, proving that Gawi would never rest on their laurels. In the fleeting seconds it took to execute the maneuver, the crowd's hair stood on end.

LA Gear has been sponsoring Salinggawi's UAAP bid for years now. This acclaimed maker of sports shoes and clothes has always prioritized the youth in its corporate endeavors.

Vangie Chua, LA Gear's marketing executive, made sure the team had the best uniforms and jackets, complete with bags and shoes. "We gave them their own LA Gear IDs so they can easily secure what they need from our stores," she said.

"We are committed to this team. We believe in their great potential," explained Thomas Lim, an alumnus of the UST College of Engineering, who is also the owner of LA Gear.

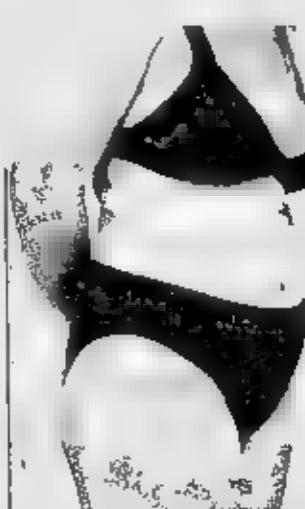
LA Gear recently hosted a victory party for the team's 29 members at the Market! Market! in The Fort. It also gave bonuses to the members.

Count on Salinggawi to lead in the singing of the UST Hymn—with its haunting refrain about "your ever valiant legion, imbued with unending grace"—as UST nears the quadri-centennial of its foundation in 2011.



UST Salinggawi members don LA Gear sports fashion.

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## 'Feng Shui' is creepy, and Kris shows tremendous improvement

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit  
Contributor

## REMEMBER "Ringu"?

The Japanese import prompted the onslaught of Asian horror flicks in local cinemas barely two years ago. Genuinely frightening, it spawned two sequels, and copycats from other neighboring countries paled in comparison.

The trend peaked early this year; it was only a matter of time before Filipino filmmakers followed suit.

Sadako, "Ringu's" now famous bogey woman, is everything that superstitious nightmares are made of. She is unique because she manifests, at least in the original flick, the terror wielded by ghastly folk tales and beliefs in inexplicable curses. She is tragedy and revenge rolled into one, and thus she has become one of the most unfortunate faces of evil.

Clones were inevitable but, to date, no immaterial monster holds a candle to the lady from the well.

Not surprisingly, Star Cinema's "Feng Shui" has borrowed quite a number of plot devices and twists from "Ringu" and the copycats. Still, the Kris Aquino starrer remains a strong and solid effort because it taps into the familiar and contemporary in order to tell a chilling tale.

## Channeling fortune

Directed by Chito Roño from a story and script he had written

with Roy Iglesias, "Feng Shui" focuses on Chinese beliefs in channeling luck.

Joy Ramirez (Kris Aquino) is a working mom and wife, a big believer in such practices. Life takes a turn for the bizarre when she discovers an old Chinese object called a *bogwa*, an octagonal framed mirror, a *feng shui* charm, that supposedly wards off evil.

Left by its previous owner in a bus, the *bogwa* soon finds itself in Joy's house. And as if on cue, strange occurrences begin.

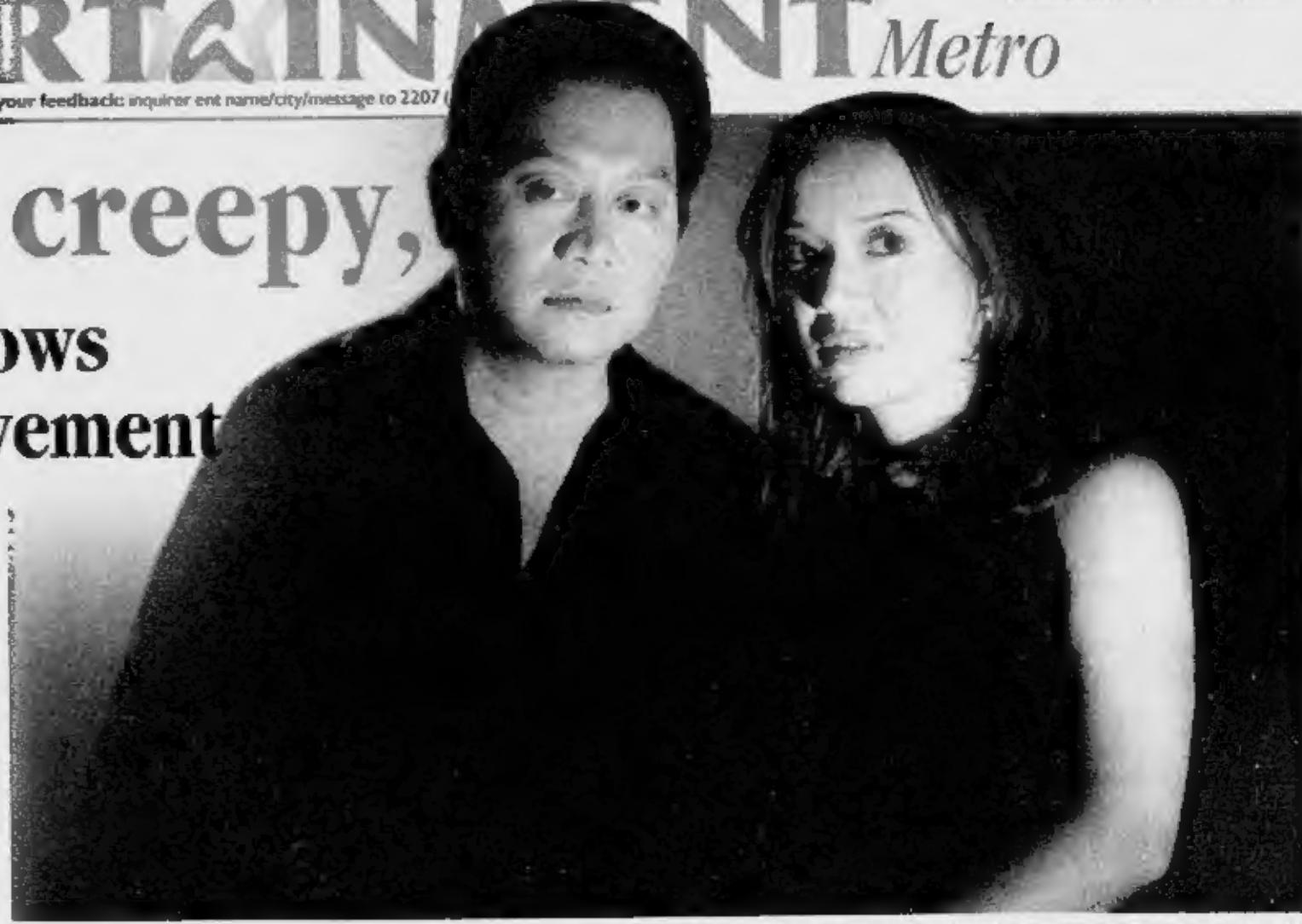
She gets lucky at work, wins supermarket raffles, and so on. Her husband, Inton (Jay Manalo), and their two kids adjust to their new home, happy that they're getting one lucky break after another.

They fail to see something that Joy would realize quite quickly—that the winning streak has a terrible price.

## Prolonged scenes

Death and great misfortune await those who accidentally see their reflection in the *bogwa*. Urged by supportive friends, like the tarot card-reading Thelma (Ionah Jean) and co-worker Alice (Lotlot de Leon), Joy digs into the charm's secrets and races against time to break its curse.

"Feng Shui" is creepy. Not expecting any big chills, I was pleasantly surprised. No, I don't mean frightened. I chuckled at the sight of some actors in prosthetic



GOOD. "Quite good" in her role as a pained, confused woman is Kris Aquino, with director Chito Roño above and co-stars Lotlot de Leon (left, at right) and Ionah Jean.

makeup, although not because the job was botched. Sure, they looked scary with the lighting and all, but I couldn't get past the fact that I had seen many of these artists before, some of them in sitcoms. With a foreign audience, perhaps, unfamiliarity could work for them.

In any case, their scenes as mean-looking phantoms are a bit too prolonged.

Joy's ability to match a doomed person's birth year to the corresponding Chinese calendar animal—and the person's impending mishap—is an interesting take on predestination. One woman dies because of a rodent-related disease. The woman was born in the Year of the Rat, Joy figures. Another meets her

demise near broken Red Horse beer bottles; she was born in the Year of the... you get the idea.

## Demystifying

There's a Sadako-like harbinger in the form of an old woman who figures into the old curse. She's also vengeful, and while I don't see a reason for her presence other than to scare the hell out of viewers, she adds freaky visual points.

Be warned, though: Her scenes—prolonged of course—are a little demystifying, too.

Kris Aquino has realized the rewards of subtlety, it's about time. While I may not be a fan of the woman as a game or talk show host, it can't be denied that she has improved tremendously



as an actress.

She has mercifully outgrown her sad 1990s "Love Ko si Kris" days. Here, she's actually quite good as a pained and confused woman. Whether she's channeling from real-life experience or acquired skill is anyone's guess.

"Feng Shui" is good, then. If derivative of its precursors. Still, the sequel—almost a certainty at this point—should explore the untapped potential of these localized concepts and go for more original and far more lingering chills.

## TV GUIDE

Directed by Chito Roño from a story and script he had written

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1 LADDER 49	1 LADDER 49	1 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	1 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	1 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
2 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	2 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	2 SHARK TALE	2 RAISING HELEN
3 SHARK TALE	3 SHARK TALE	3 LADDER 49	3 OPEN WATER	3 FAHRENHEIT 9/11
4 WIMBLEDON	4 WIMBLEDON	4 WIMBLEDON	4 THREE	4 GODSEND
5 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	5 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	5 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	5 LADDER 49	5 SHARK TALE
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At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
ANSON'S APPLIANCE EXHIBIT (ongoing until October 21) GOLD'S GYM EVENT October 23	59.5 POCKET CONCERT October 23 MTV Fashionista Model Search October 24	MS. UNITED NATIONS 2004 CELEBRATION
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movietime

EVERY HERO HAS A DESTINY.

JOAQUIN PHOENIX JOHN TRAVOLTA

LADDER 49

movieflickoftheweek

I whattowatch I

—THE—  
PODIUM  
CINEMA

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976  
LATE NIGHT SCREENING  
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 THE HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS

12:10 ES/ 12:40 MS/ 3:15/ 5:50/ 8:25/ 10:25 LS/ 11:00 LM/ 1:00 END

2 LADDER 49

12:10 ES/ 12:40 MS/ 3:15/ 5:50/ 8:25/ 10:25 LS/ 11:45 LM/ 1:00 END

HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS

MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9

SM City Fairview Cinema 9

SM City Manila Cinema 6

SM City North Edsa Cinema 8

SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2

SM City Bicutan Cinema 2

SM City Megamall Cinema 4

SM City North Edsa Cinema 8

SM Megamall Cinema 4

SM City Fairview Cinema 4

LADDER 49

MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 1

SM City Fairview Cinema 4

SM City Manila Cinema 12

SM City Southmall Cinema 10

SM City Bicutan Cinema 1

SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 1

SM City Fairview Cinema 5

SM City Manila Cinema 7

SM City North Edsa Cinema 4

SM City Southmall Cinema 4

SM City Bicutan Cinema 4

OPEN WATER

MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM Fairview Cinema 11

SM Megamall Cinema 11

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4

SM City Southmall Cinema 10

SM City Fairview Cinema 4

SM City Manila Cinema 6

SM City Fairview Cinema 12

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6

SM City Southmall Cinema 6

SM City Bicutan Cinema 1

THE PUNISHER

MTRCB Rating: R 13

SM City Manila Cinema 12

SM City Fairview Cinema 12

SM Megamall Cinema 6

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 10

SM City Southmall Cinema 6

SM City Bicutan Cinema 6

SM City Fairview Cinema 6

SHARK TALE

MTRCB Rating: R

SM City Fairview Cinema 8

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7

SM City Bicutan Cinema 7

SM City Megamall Cinema 7

SM City North Edsa Cinema 2

SM City Southmall Cinema 2

SM City Fairview Cinema 2

SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4

SM City Manila Cinema 4

SM City Southmall Cinema 2

SM City Bicutan Cinema 2

SM City Fairview Cinema 2

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City North Edsa Cinema 3

SM City Fairview Cinema 1

SM City Bicutan Cinema 4

SM City North Edsa Cinema 5

SM City Southmall Cinema 3

SM City Bicutan Cinema 3

SM City Fairview Cinema 2

SM City Manila Cinema 4

SM City Southmall Cinema 8

SM City Bicutan Cinema 4

SM City Fairview Cinema 4

THREE

MTRCB Rating: R 13

SM City Manila Cinema 10

SM City Fairview Cinema 10

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6

SM City Southmall Cinema 9

BOURNE SUPREMACY

MTRCB Rating: R 13

SM City Manila Cinema 9

SM City North Edsa Cinema 3

SM City Fairview Cinema 6

SM Megamall Cinema 9

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 1

SM City Southmall Cinema 7

SM City Bicutan Cinema 3

SM City Fairview Cinema 3

FENG SHUI

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

RESIDENT EVIL

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

WIMBLEDON

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM Megamall Cinema 12

SM City Manila Cinema 12

SM Megamall Cinema 5

SM City Southmall Cinema 7

SM City Bicutan Cinema 10



# ENTERTAINMENT Metro

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# Call them bond, just bond

FOR YEARS, Bond girls bad and good have been celebrated for their sultry sex appeal, sophistication, intelligence and immense talent.

These four women are no exception. But while you won't find them getting intimate

with James Bond or battling for world domination anytime soon, you will find them in Manila performing at the PICC Plenary Hall tomorrow.

Call them "bond." Not Bond, but just bond.

Their weapon of choice: two violins, a viola and cello. Their mode of seduction—classical music laced with a lethal dose of electro beats



BEST-SELLER. bond is the world's only string quartet with a best-selling album

and world rhythms.

The girls are Eos Chatterton on second violin, Gay-Yee Westerhoff on cello, Haylie Ecker on first violin and Tania Davis on viola. They are currently on whirlwind promotional tour around Europe, US and different parts of Asia to promote their latest album, "Classified."

The London-based quartet brings an eclectic mix of musical influences to "Classified." Classical arrangements are generously spiked with electronica, hip-hop, African beats, Latin groove and jazz.

Add to this a massive orchestral sound, courtesy of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra playing throughout the album, and you've got a potent sensory cocktail.

It was while playing with artists like the Spice Girls, Barry Manilow, Bryan Adams and the Cocteau Twins that Gay-Yee and Eos saw the potential of a classical pop group.

"Gay-Yee and I met doing session work since we used to do backing for bands," says Eos. "So we got to talk-

ing about the idea of doing a quartet that wasn't just backing, that was up front."

Soon, the two girls met with Haylie and Tania to form bond.

Since then, bond has released three albums in four years and nabbed the honor of being a string quartet with a best-selling album.

But it wasn't all smooth sailing for bond, especially when they first started. The release of their debut album, "Born," which also fused dance beats with string arrangements, was banned from UK's classical charts despite its success in the Billboard magazine's US classical crossover charts. Some classical music fans even went as far as lobbying to have "Born" deleted from the classical-record sales surveys.

Though classical purists may frown on their daring duds and unconventional sound, the girls are nonplussed. They are confident with their sound because they are just creating and playing music that they love.

"I love classical music and I really enjoy every other style of music as well, so this is ideal for me because it brings all those together," declares Westerhoff.

With millions of albums sold, a string of sold-out concerts and a booming fan base, it seems that more and more people are enjoying their music just as much as the women in the group do.

"People are blurring genres more than they used to," says Davis. "It's happening more and more. People just don't realize that they are hearing classical."

The girls of bond perform live at the PICC Plenary Hall tomorrow, Oct. 20.

"bond live in Manila" is presented by Smart Gold and Sunlife Financial together with Rado Switzerland, Montre Watch Shop, McDonalds, Gloria Jean's Coffee, The Manila Hotel and MCA Universal.

Tickets are available at Ticket World.



A4 FOR SHORT. (From left) Dyords Javier, Pinky Marquez, Isay Alvarez and Bimbo Cerrudo

## The name changed, but not the music

FIRST, they called themselves the Angfourgetables. Then, they became simply called Ang4.

Today, they are known as A4. Is the quartet of Dyords Javier, Pinky Marquez, Isay Alvarez and Bimbo Cerrudo reinventing itself?

"No big deal," says Dyords, who created the group after midnight 13 years ago by dialing Pinky. "We adopted A4 for brevity, easier recall. And no, we're not riding on the popularity of P4."

Why should they? The group has survived music trends and fads. It's

made up of seasoned performers who have all made a name for themselves. They have performed in shows, big and small. They even served as ambassadors of goodwill through their shows for

Pilipino overseas workers in the Galling ng Pilipino world tour launched by then First Lady

Ming Ramos.

They were the first Pilipino entertainers to perform in Ras Laffan, Doha, Qatar, where 6,000 workers, 4,000 of them Filipinos, toiled in the middle of the desert, at the compound of the largest natural

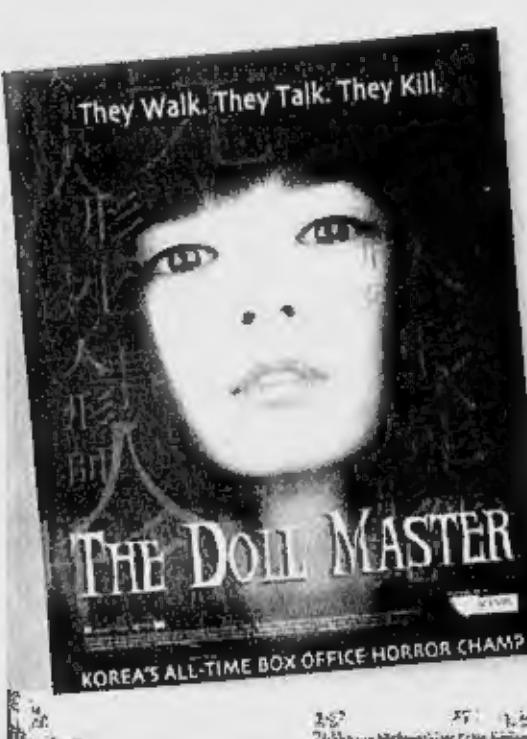
gas deposit in the world.

Another memorable show was in Pampanga, after Mt. Pinatubo covered most of the province with lahar.

Today, their music has not changed. Their repartee is as lively and spontaneous as ever. The jokes are still wholesome, the show unscripted for maximum effect. That's why entire families can watch their shows and corporate executives have gotten them again and again for special functions.

Catch A4 at the Dish, ELJ Building, ABS-CBN compound tonight and on Oct. 26, 9:30 p.m.

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**VIVA**  
and  
**WAVE 89.1**  
**CINEMAS**  
**DOLL MASTER SEARCH**  
Dress Up Your Doll Contest & Exhibit  
October 18 to 26, 2004  
A contest to the best dressed doll shall be conducted. Entries shall be exhibited at Robinsons Movieworld Collins cinema lobby.  
For more info, pls. call the MARKETING SERVICES DEPT. @ 443-0561 / 632-3894 loc. 14 to 16  
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October 18, 2004 • 7:30PM  
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Time in Wave 89.1 and get a chance to win  
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\*Awarding of winners for Doll Master Search: Dress Up Your Doll Contest shall be announced before the Movie.

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2:00 PM SHARK TALE III	2:00 PM LADDER 49
3:00 PM SKY CAPTAIN DP	3:00 PM SKY CAPTAIN
4:00 PM HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS PG-13	4:00 PM HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
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